

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

7171 Clinton Avenue

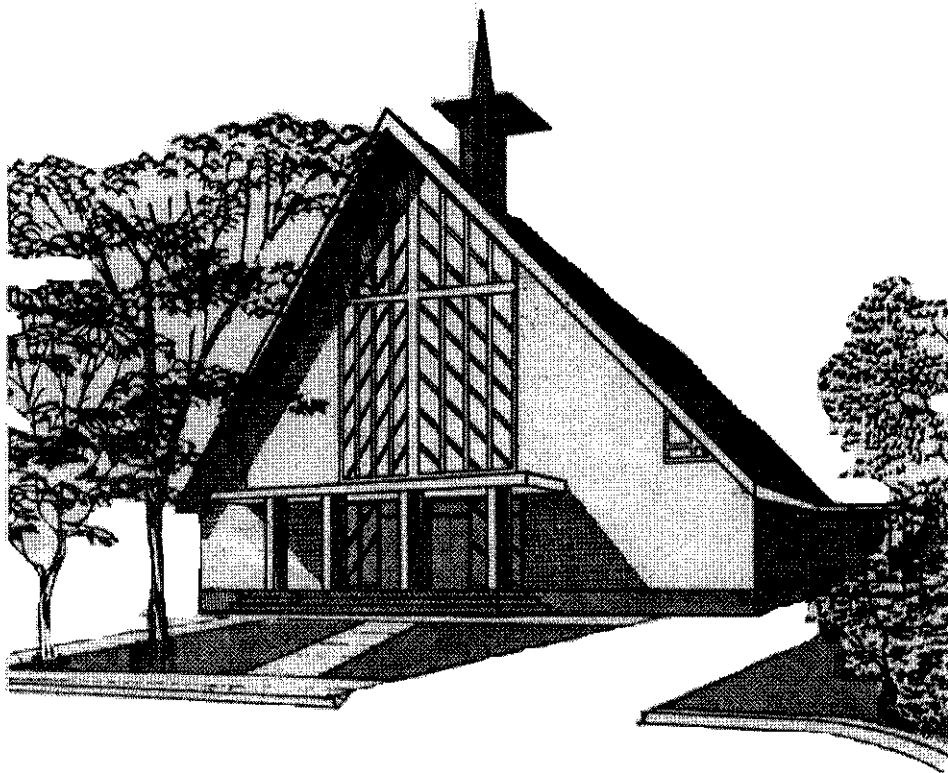
Halifax, NS B3L 3Y8

Phone (902) 455-0521 Fax (902) 455-0306

Email: [office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca)

Website: [www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca](http://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca)

**OFFICE ADDRESS: 2669 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS, B3L 4G5**



## Annual Report

-2018-

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda.....	I
Message from Rev. Kevin Little.....	II
In Memoriam.....	III
Minutes of Congregational Meeting.....	IV
Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting (May 6, 2018).....	IX

Executive Board .....	1
Board of Managers .....	4
Treasurer's Report .....	6
Investments .....	7
3 Year Comparison .....	8
Mission and Service .....	9
Contribution Report .....	9
Memorial Report.....	9
Brookfield Fund.....	10
Benevolent Fund.....	11
Capital Campaign .....	12
Board of Trustees .....	12
Session.....	13
Worship .....	16
Local Outreach /Financial.....	18
Ministry and Personnel .....	20
Revelation Committee.....	21
Fall Fair Report.....	22

### **Ministries**

Children and Family Care Ministry.....	25
Community Engagement Ministry.....	26
United Church Women /Financial.....	28
Flower Fund Committee Report /Financial .....	29
Coffee Hour Ministry.....	31
Men's Club.....	32
Muffin Club. ....	33
Piercey Memorial Garden Committee .....	34
The Janet and Earle Reid Scholarship Fund.....	35
Ministry of Music Report .....	36
Memorial Music Fund.....	38
Rackham Fund & Lillian Piercey Scholarship Fund	
Audio Report (Sanctuary).....	39
Vision Report (Fellowship Hall).....	40

**BETHANY UNITED CHURCH**  
**2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**March 31, 2019 - 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 25, 2018 and from Special Meeting, Sunday, May 6, 2018
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 2019Motion to accept Financial Reports.
9. Nominating Committee Report  
Election to fill vacancies
  - a)
  - b)
10. New Business
  - a) Motion – Destroy Ballots from Special Meeting held, Sunday, May 6, 2018
  - b) Report from Options 1 Fundraising Campaign
11. Adjournment and Benediction.



## Minister's Report

Dear Bethany:

It's been quite a year, our Sunday morning congregation has grown to just shy of 200 (we keep running out of bulletins!), our revenues are up from last year, people are signing up to participate in our community/educational events in large numbers, the choir is as large as it's ever been in Shawn's 20-year tenure, and our 2018 Fall Fair raised over \$34,000. And new people keep coming... It's been quite a year. As you will hear from our Capital Campaign Committee we are on track to raise the \$1 million plus we will need to renovate our building.

And speaking of upgrades to our building...I want to commend Gord and his Board of Managers for their very hard work. In particular, I want to thank them and Phil and his crew for the Ramp on the side of the Hall that allows our building to be accessed by more and more people. That Ramp is a blessing and a vessel of God's love. Thank you!

We've been witnessing more and more people coming to our church, usually from outside metro, retirees who are selling their homes and renting apartments in the city. I have been calling them when they leave their contact information and having coffee conversation. I see many coming back, volunteering and participating in our events, becoming part of our community.

A few highlights to mention:

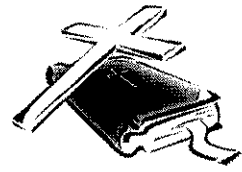
- Jim and Rhonda had a vision for a Volunteer Appreciation Night and together with our staff we shared a beautiful evening of gratitude. I also took that opportunity to make October Volunteer Appreciation month and crafted sermons to meet that moment. The Spirit was/is contagious.
- The Bethany Players offered *The People in Our Neighbourhood* and it was a big hit, both from a creative standpoint and the size of the cast and audience.
- Our funeral reception teams have gone above and beyond the call of duty, offering families a Ministry of Hospitality that has more than made its mark. Families are so appreciative of this offering.

I continue to visit people on a regular basis, persons in assisted living, residential care and folks living at home. In all of these contexts, whether people are in good spirits or troubled by challenges, I try to make myself available quickly, with compassion and with the assurance that none of us are alone, we live in God's world.

Blessings in ministry, Kevin Little



# *In Memoriam*



*Jane Brown*

*Douglas Christen*

*Joyce Clark*

*Bernice Dexter*

*Constance "Connie" Eldridge*

*Alexander "Lorne" Finley*

*Barbara "Jean" Fraser*

*Sidney Jackson*

*Norma Mitchell*

*Gloria Nettle*

*Doris Phillips*

*Margaret "Peggy" Starkes*

*Douglas Sawyer*

**2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**BETHANY UNITED CHURCH**  
**MARCH 25, 2018**

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) for 2017 was called to order at 12:03pm Sunday, March 25, 2018 by David Rackham, Chair.

Rev. Kevin Little read the names of Bethany members who passed away in 2017 and then led us in prayer.

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

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

Bob Eaton moved and Rob Steeves seconded the approval of the Agenda as printed in the Annual Report of 2017 with the addition under New Business – a) Confirmation of extension of one minister policy and b) Report of state of planning for Bethany facility. MOTION CARRIED

Bob Eaton moved and Carol Knapp seconded the approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting of March 26, 2017 as circulated. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising from the March 26, 2017 Minutes - none

It was moved by Karen Finley and seconded by Carolyn Kunz that all Annual Reports contained in the Annual Report 2017, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report, Auditor's Report and Proposed Budget for 2018, be accepted and approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Don MacKay, Treasurer, presented and reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Financial Statements as prepared by AC Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson Chartered Professional Accountants and the 2018 Budget. Don MacKay moved the acceptance of the reports as presented. Motion seconded by Charles Baxter. MOTION CARRIED.

Don MacKay moved the appointment of AC Hunter Tellier Belgrave Adamson Chartered Professional Accountants as our auditors for the year 2018. Motion seconded by Charles Baxter. MOTION CARRIED.

David Rackham thanked Don MacKay for his time and efforts as Treasurer.

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

## Session

The following individuals retire from Session today and we thank them for their service:

- Ken Carter
- Heather Gillis
- Sheila Gray
- Rex Langdon
- Chuck Maxner
- Maryth Maxner
- Sherri Lynn Richardson

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

The following members of Session have completed five-year terms and are willing to serve further five-year terms on Session, if elected, and we hereby nominate them:

- Pam Carter
- Scott Grant
- David Rackham
- Glen Tozer
- Louisa Duck
- Bill Piercey
- Zenora Rackham

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

- Bob Cummings
- Dana Mills
- Sharon Wentzell
- Lisa Harrison
- Crystal Wentzell

## Board of Trustees

Trustees Jim Musgrave, Les Russell and Jerry Slaunwhite completed their second three-year terms on the Board of Trustees at the Annual Congregational Meeting a year ago and would ordinarily not have been eligible for re-election, but, with special approval of the Executive Board, agreed to remain as Trustees for an additional one-year term expiring today. The Executive Board has since approved a second one-year renewal for each of them, and, if elected, Jim, Les and Gerry would continue to serve as Trustees until the Annual Congregational Meeting next year. We hereby nominate them for one year each.

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

The following 2 individuals from our congregation have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Trustees, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Laura King
- Don MacKay



## **Board of Managers**

Paul Dandurand retired early from the Board due to work commitments. The following individuals also retire from the Board of Managers today:

- Peter Freeman
- Don MacKay (who served as Interim Treasurer)
- Mark King

We thank them for their valuable service.

Glendon Knapp and Phil Reardon have completed three-year terms on the Board of Managers and are willing to serve a further three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Glendon and Phil.

The following 4 individuals have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Robert (Bob) Carter
- Linda Knechtel
- Mary MacKay
- Jason Merry

## **Executive Board**

The following individuals retire from the Executive Board today:

- Alan (Bud) MacDonald
- Don MacKay (who served as interim Treasurer)
- Michael Moore
- Bill Piercey
- Lynn Steeves

We thank them all for their valuable service.

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

- Heather Brophy
- Lyn McMillan
- David Rackham

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

As well, the following 5 individuals have agreed to serve new three-year terms as members-at-large on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Robert (Bob) Grant
- Karen Hatcher
- Julie Johnson
- Herb Steeves
- Brian Wentzell

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

Jim Musgrave thanked Amy-Sue Bowers and Heather Brophy for support on the Nominating Committee this year.

All of the foregoing nominations to the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and Session are respectfully submitted, and so moved by Heather Brophy. Motion seconded by Bob Eaton. MOTION CARRIED.

### **New Business**

- a) David Rackham moved we confirm the Executive Board's decision to continue with an extension of the one minister policy and to increase Ann Bradley's weekly hours. These decisions will be reviewed in December 2018. Motion seconded by Don MacKay. Motion carried.
- b) Update on Options for the Future of the Bethany Facility – David Rackham reported:
  - In June 2017 seven firms were approached asking if they would be interested in responding to a Request for Proposal in respect to Option 1 (undertake ongoing maintenance and capital repairs) and Option 3A (removal of a portion of the facility and replacement with a new building), the top two options preferred by the congregation.
  - By the end of June, only one firm had indicated an interest in taking on this project.
  - In the end, that firm indicated that it could only provide estimated costs of preparing a proposal for each option.
  - The Executive Board decided that these costs were prohibitively expensive.
  - The Executive Board then commissioned the establishment of a special ad hoc committee (later known as the Option 1 Committee) consisting of members of the Bethany congregation with the requisite qualifications to undertake the job of analyzing the current state of the facility and developing realistic estimates of what it would cost to properly implement Option 1.

- The Option 1 Committee has been working diligently during Autumn 2017 and into Winter 2018 and their report is almost ready to be presented to the Executive Board at its April meeting.
- Once the report is accepted and approved by the Executive Board, plans will be established to share it in detail with the congregation as soon as possible in various ways.
- Ultimately, the report with its recommendations will then be brought before a special congregational meeting later in Spring 2018 where attendees will be asked whether they are willing to authorize implementing Option 1 in the full light of a realistic assessment of what would be necessary to properly implement Option 1 and the estimated cost of doing so.

David Rackham thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work and congratulated the Bethany Players on a job well done on their recent performance. He also thanked Lynn Steeves for six years of service as Secretary of the Executive Board.

Rob Steeves moved the meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Rev. Kevin Little gave the Benediction.

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David Rackham  
Chair, Executive Board

**BETHANY UNITED CHURCH**  
**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**SUNDAY MAY 6, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Congregation members and adherents; Head Table – Chair David Rackham; Linda Knectel, Philip Reardon, Mark Atwood, Gordon McMillan and Gloria Stephens.

**CALL TO ORDER:** David Rackham, as Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 12:06. He first thanked Lynn Steeves for her years of service as Secretary of the Executive Board and then proceeded to announce that Gloria Stephens would now be Secretary.

David thanked the Option 1 committee for their dedication, long hours of concentrated work and proceeded to name the committee members Chair- Gordon McMillan, Mark Atwood, Ross Evans, Brian Jay, Paul Reardon, and Betty Taylor.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Rev. Kevin Little gave a prayer that covered the items and areas of the church under consideration during this meeting and asked that God will guide and help in the deliberations and decision to be made.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA:**

Moved by Brian Jay and seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

**POWER POINT PRESENTATION:**

David Rackham introduced Gordon McMillan as Chair of the Option 1 committee to present the Power Point presentation which was prepared by the committee. Gordon first explained how Option 1 came to be from a previous committee, Facilities Planning Committee (FCP) and explained why the Option 1 committee did the investigation, as having an outside professional firm costs were prohibitive and there were Bethany members quite qualified to do the job effectively .

Gordon explained every slide clearly and at times had other committee members add further information. The slide show gave a comprehensive report as to the needs required in three different sections of the church structure: AREA 1- SANCTUARY/ CHAPEL, HALLWAY; AREA 2- FELLOWSHIP HALL, KITCHEN, BATHROOMS, MINISTER'S OFFICE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE; AREA 3 – GYM, LIBRARY, SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS, NURSERY, BOARDROOM, PARLOUR and OFFICES. This included priorities broken down into High, Medium and Low with the financial amounts to each. The presentation made sure that the members had a clear vision of the committee findings.

**COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:**

David explained the process to be followed during this period of the meeting asking that all use the mic and say their name, 22 people asked questions or gave a comment.

Paul Doane- even if we repair the buildings the United Church of Canada owns the buildings and property. It was explained that the moneys donated would not go to Toronto and that the Presbytery did not interfere in the past and probably will not in the future. Pam Carter explained - no problem being owned by UCC as they assisted with United Memorial and nothing went to Toronto.

Bill Piercey explained the endowment fund and ownership.

Linda Knechtel explained about a monthly mortgage payment along with the financial project that if funds are obtained then a smaller mortgage request would be made but wanted everyone to know the final financial proposal.

Bev Johnson asked: does the Presbytery have any responsibility towards helping us with this situation. Kevin responded – there are some Presbytery funds available but not a lot and the moneys have to be spread over many churches and each church feels they have the more urgent need.

Ruby Bjarnason asked the question – has anyone thought of the amount needed per church member? Answered by Linda Knechtel not at this time but once the results of the vote are known, this could possibly be figured out.

Les Russell – how soon has the project to start and do we have funds enough to start now? ANS. by Philip Reardon, as mentioned the three sections have been broken down into high, medium and low needs and the high needs to be seriously looked at especially the foundation of the Fellowship Hall and liability comes into the decision as well as safety.

Another person asked – can we approach the original builder for inadequate work? Ans, no. No sense looking back must deal with the situation at hand and move forward.

Gary Armstrong – we are in a unique position and in a ‘good position’- we have ¾ funds in the bank now. He compared the financial situation to a mortgage of a house in the area which is prime housing area and that our mortgage if taken out can be met. So let’s move forward with Option 1, it will be less expensive than moving.

Carolyn Kunz- comment: the Sanctuary is not totally used and some churches have removed pews and have chairs and conduct various functions to raise money. Just a thought to consider.

Doug Shields – still have to spend amount required by 2020 – we don’t know what the makeup of the congregation will be then and can the plan be sustained? Presently we are OK and I guess there is hope to move forward.

Bud MacDonald – has the boiler and other such parts been included in the estimate and what about the chimney has this been looked into? The Sanctuary floor is in bad shape and I believe there is a problem of asbestosis- has all this been investigated? Ans. – yes all this has been addressed. Glenn Knapp explained the situation of the boiler that it was repaired and has an extensive guarantee so therefore was not included in the financial report but will have to be assessed along the way.

DON MacKay – complimented the hard work of the Option 1 committee and stated that we should have confidence in their report and in fact at the moment not looking at a million dollar mortgage but at the 'HIGH NEEDS' which is about 400,000 to deal with these repairs as a priority. Then we will have a sound structure, after this another assessment could be done, Go with the committee recommendations.

Shirley Nicolson – is there a plan as to how we are paying the monthly 1300 should we get a million dollar mortgage? Ans. not at this time as the hope is that funds will be donated and a mortgage will be much less than a million. Time will tell.

Lyn McMILLAN – we need money for a 'rainy day and then proceeded to explain about the million needed – that was for the FULL picture and areas can be repaired now, no one is rushing off to obtain a mortgage but this needed to be shown in the 'big picture'.

Gordon Lawley – we are only talking money – do the repairs in parts, not all at once. This can be done. The committee did a fantastic job and need our support.

Bill Piercy – there have been three places isolated as in 'high priority' – do the high priority

Hal Campbell – look at the recommendation report. Ans. by Phil Reardon – he explained the serious damage throughout (mould etc.) everything in high priority needs to be addressed. Things need to be done and then revisited in 2020.

Board of Managers will look into a budget, pledges amount and then David Rackham read the recommendation of the committee:

*"The Option 1 Committee is recommending that the Executive Board provide the congregation with an update concerning Option 1 and advise that it will be asking the Board of Managers to continue carrying out priority repairs, using existing funds, as it investigates other financing options to address the shortfall in funding".*

Linda Knechtel –explained: we gave the 'big' picture so that everyone was aware and folks would not be surprised, if this wasn't done and we asked for smaller amount and then as time went on and we had to ask for more – this would not have been a correct way. We didn't want any surprises.

Cheri Wilson – she reaffirmed the committee work and stated:" We are fortunate to have such qualified members of the church. The committee must have considered all the questions that we are presenting here today. They are asking us for support in order to move forward. We must vote out of 'faith' and not fear- we must move forward.

Herb Steeves – we must vote so that we can move on.

**MOTION to ENFRANCHISE ADHERENTS to PARTICIPATE in the VOTING:**

Motion by Bob Eaton; seconded by Bob Carter. David read the motion. Motion carried.

**VOTING:**

The vote was to establish the future of Bethany.

David explained the method and protocol of the voting system and then the voting proceeded.

**COMPILATION & REPORTING VOTING RESULTS:**

The makeup of members voting: Members -91; Adherents- 13 U/K- 5 with a total of 109 voting.

The ballots were counted by three people and the results told to David Rackham, the Chair, who then informed Kevin Little and he told the few who remained behind after the voting and clapping occurred. The result was 107 YES; 2 NO- Total ballots equaled the number of qualified voters.

The time now was 2:30 PM and the majority of folks had left the hall. The meeting ended without a motion.

The Secretary at present, has the ballots and at a later date a motion to have the ballots destroyed must be made.

Respectfully reported,  
Gloria Stephens, Secretary

## Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) is generally responsible for exercising overall leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life, activities and the work of the Congregation, the care and maintenance of the church property, and to act as a liaison between the Congregation and Halifax Presbytery. In receiving and disseminating reports from the various boards and committees that comprise the governance framework (polity) of Bethany United Church, the EB also serves the important function of keeping people informed of the ongoing activities, opportunities and challenges faced by the Bethany community as it seeks to be an instrument of God's kingdom here on Earth. EB meetings are the only real forum where a sharing of the activities of the various boards and committees of the church occurs on a regular basis. You are referred to the reports of these individual boards and committees for details. Normally the EB would meet five times during a given calendar year while a small informal Sub-Committee of the Executive Board meets as necessary to keep abreast of ongoing developments at Bethany and to prepare for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the full Executive Board. I express my deep appreciation to all members of the EB and the Bethany community at large for their encouragement and support throughout 2018.

During 2018 the EB met on four (4) occasions with the fifth meeting scheduled for December 2018 postponed to January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 due to an unanticipated funeral scheduled at the same time necessitating the presence of our lead minister who, according to United Church of Canada protocols, must be in attendance for an Executive Board meeting to be held. In addition to its regular meetings, the EB chaired the Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 and an Extra-Congregational meeting held on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 to consider the Option 1 Committee Report and to vote on its recommendations.

### Regular Meetings of the Executive Board in 2018

#### February 5th 2018

- The primary focus of attention at this meeting was to consider General Council Remit #6 which proposed that under the new system of governance of the United Church of Canada to take effect January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, there should be one order of ministry encompassing the existing categories of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, and lay ministers. After considerable discussion, a vote was taken with the result that Remit #6 was unanimously rejected by Bethany's Executive Board. This result was relayed to Toronto to be compiled with the votes on Remit #6 from pastoral charges across the country.
- The ongoing work of the Bethany Facility Committee was examined and it was agreed that this committee should be empowered to decide on how it would like to report to the congregation at large at an appropriate time.

#### April 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

- Two members of the Option 1 Committee (Phil Reardon and Mark Atwood) were invited to this meeting to present a report on the practical and financial realities associated with implementing Option 1 (Status Quo), Option 1 being the congregation's preferred option for the future of the Bethany facility. Following a period of questions and answers, it was agreed that an *ad hoc* sub-committee of the Executive Board would be struck to plan for the presentation of this report to the congregation at an extra-congregational meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that the Executive Board should establish a



small committee, if necessary, to investigate additional sale/development options for the Bethany property should the Option 1 proposal fail to secure the support of the congregation.

- In response to a request from several members of the congregation, accessibility issues at Bethany were discussed and it was agreed to ask the Board of Managers to look into this matter.
- The Executive Board authorized Louisa Duck to recommend two members of our Bethany youth for interim membership on the Session and its sub-committee, the Worship Committee, with the understanding that these individuals would be presented for approval at the next scheduled Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

#### June 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

- The Executive Board confirmed the convening of an Option 1 Fundraising Committee to solicit funding from Bethany members and adherents to support the Option 1 project.
- The Executive Board also confirmed the establishment of a small committee centered in the Board of Managers to oversee the implementation of the Option 1 project.
- The viability/advisability of offering a small raffle as a fundraising component of the Fall Fair was discussed and approved. It was also decided to establish a small *ad hoc* committee to look into a raffle policy for Bethany at large as a component of its fundraising activities.
- Implications of the forthcoming changes in the polity (system of governance) of the United Church of Canada effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 were discussed from the perspective of local pastoral charges such as that of Bethany. From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 the United Church moves from a four-court to a three-court system of governance which will have significant implications for how local pastoral charges manage their affairs.
- The chair reported the official outcome of the extra-congregational meeting held on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 to present the conclusions and recommendations of the Option 1 Committee to the congregation at large. Of the 109 ballots submitted at that meeting, 107 were cast in support of implementing Option 1 with 2 against. The minutes of this meeting will be found under separate cover in the overall Bethany 2018 Annual Report Bulletin.

#### October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018

- An update on the Option 1 Capital Fundraising Campaign was presented to the Executive Board for their consideration.
- The need to establish an *ad hoc* committee to investigate the current and future system of governance of Bethany United Church was examined in respect to (1) impending changes to local pastoral charges associated with the devolution of the United Church of Canada's overall governance structure from a four-court to a three-court system and (2) the impact of changing demographics (an ageing membership with its implications for the availability of financial resources and volunteers to populate the various boards and committees of local pastoral charges such as that of Bethany). It was decided that this committee would be struck at an appropriate time in 2019 once instructions from higher courts of the church were received from the successors to Halifax Presbytery and Maritime Conference.
- At the request of Bethany's Nominating Committee, the chair asked Executive Board members to consider their terms of service on the Executive Board and whether, if their term of service was expiring in March 2019, they would be willing to consider a second three-year term if eligible. Members are limited to a maximum of two three-year terms.
- The chair reported that he had sent letters of appreciation to Cheri Wilson, Sue Bolton, and Karen Hatcher for their stalwart and much appreciated efforts as co-chairs of the highly successful 2018 Fall Fair.

Regularly Scheduled December 2018 Meeting Re-Scheduled to January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019


Congregational Meetings Called by and Moderated by the Executive Board in 2018

- The 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2018. The minutes of this meeting are reported under separate cover in the 2018 Bethany United Church Annual Report bulletin.
- A special extra-congregational meeting was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 to present the findings and recommendations of the Option 1 Committee to the congregation for their consideration and approval. The minutes of this meeting are reported under separate cover in the 2018 Bethany United Church Annual Report bulletin.

Deep gratitude is expressed to all members of the Executive Board for their selfless service to the Bethany community throughout 2018. Special recognition is extended to Gloria Stephens for her willingness to take on the role of Recording Secretary for the Executive Board. Members for 2018 and the constituencies they represent are listed below.

<u>2018 EB Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>2018 EB Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Ann Bradley	Outreach	Lyn McMillan	Member at Large
Heather Brophy	Member at Large	Charlotte Moase	Youth Representative
Pam Carter	Halifax Presbytery	David Rackham	Member at Large, Chair
Peyton Duggan	Youth Representative	Dave Reid	Ministry & Personnel
Karen Finley	UCW	Les Russell	Member at Large
Bob Grant	Member at Large	Jerry Slaunwhite	Member at Large
Karen Hatcher	Member at Large	Herb Steeves	Member at Large
Julie Johnson	Member at Large	Gloria Stephens	Recording Secretary
Carol Knapp	Session	Brian Wentzell	Member at Large
Linda Knechtel	Treasurer	Andy Williams	Board of Trustees
Rev. Kevin Little	<i>Ex officio</i>	Cheri Wilson	Revelation Committee
Gordon McMillan	Board of Managers		

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Rackham (Chair)

## **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

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

Members on the Board for 2018 : Penny Allen, Bob Carter, Mary Farmer, Glen Knapp, Linda Knechtel, Rob Legg, Mary MacKay, Jason Merry, Joel Powell, Phil Reardon, Greg Rice, Doug Shields, Carol Simmons and Rob Steeves.

A special thank you to Co-Chair Glen Knapp for always being there in dealing with everything from rentals, to heating and lighting issues, to operating our sound system and to serving as a liaison between the Board and our Custodian.

A special thank you to Phil Reardon for continuing to offer his constructive insights into the many repair issues that constantly present themselves and overseeing many projects that have been undertaken.

A special thank you to Linda Knechtel for assuming the responsibility of Treasurer.

A special thank you to both Penny Allen and Bob Carter for serving as Secretary when called upon to do so.

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

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the members of the Option # 1 Committee – Ross Evans, Brian Jay, Mark Atwood, Betty Tozer, and Phil Reardon. This Committee was established in late 2017 by the Executive Board to investigate and produce a plan that outlined the areas of our Complex that required repair, recommendations as to just how it could be done, and to include estimates as to the costs involved. With the SNC Lavalin Report serving as a back drop, they worked diligently and produced a Report. This was presented, first to the Executive Board, and then at a Congregational Meeting in May, which approved its adoption, thus giving direction to the Board of Managers to begin implementing its recommendations. It was indeed a very rewarding experience for me to have been a part of, and worked with, this group.

The Board has addressed the following issues during 2018:

Boiler – sprayed with a protective coating to enhance its heat retention

Brook – new grate installed replacing the old rusted one

Chapel window – stained glass (24 pieces) removed; awaiting restoration of tracery/framework)

Coat racks – 4 movable ones set up in FH

FH front entry – 4 posts, white trim and some shingled areas repainted

FH(inside) – dozens of nail holes filled and repainted

FH ramp – all concrete and paving work completed plus installation of hand rails

FH speakers – 4 new ones installed, including sound board, ( through efforts of Barry Paton)

FH /Tower – complete repair of truss support and one interior wall of Tower plus repainting

Furniture – RBC donated 12 chairs (now in Board Room) plus 2 in Front Entry

Gym – roof re-shingled

- 3 new windows, including trim, installed
- walls above chair rail, repaired, primed, and repainted

Hallway (a) – between Nursey and parking lot doors repainted

Hallway (b) – selected areas between ramp doors and choir entrances repainted

- floor raised and stabilized from underneath

Heating system – installation of internal/external control system that will activate the hot water pumps for the various heating zones

- replaced burner motor
- installed 3 new digital thermostats to reduce fuel consumption

Kitchen – replaced both windows including trim

- new flow pipe connected to the domestic sink to prevent freeze-ups
- wiring to automatic coffee maker has been upgraded to 240 voltage

Liturgical table – new one, including chair, donated by Clowater estate

Louisa's office – exterior humidistat control fan vent installed

Office – vault safe added

Parking lots – tree branches and brush removed from perimeters

Refuse bins – 2 sets of 3 set up in FH and kitchen (donated by Bethany Foot Care)

Security – sanctuary sensors moved from “shaky” exterior doors to interior ones so as to reduce the likelihood of triggering false alarms

Washrooms (main) – floors stabilized with a new beam plus posts added under Gym

- “sharps” containers mounted on the wall

We have had a very productive and busy 2018. I am sure that 2019 will be much the same as we attempt to implement the recommendations of the Option #1 Report as well as regular maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Gord McMillan, Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 has been a busy year for Bethany! We are so lucky to have so much going on here, not just in the church itself, but in our many outreach activities. All of this, of course, requires the financial support of the congregation and I am happy to report that our contributions were over budget this year and there was no requirement for a Year End Appeal. Also, we had a fantastic Fall Fair which raised a record breaking amount for the church's activities.

A major fund raising campaign was launched (see Capital Campaign Report) to address our major repair and renovation work, but we still have other challenges to deal with in the maintenance of our current facilities.

With the restructuring within the United Church, we no longer have the Halifax Presbytery Assessment, but we do have a new assessment which is 10% higher than last year. Indications are that this will probably continue to increase in the future.

I would like to encourage everyone to keep up their contributions in 2019 so that we are able to continue to provide the Bethany community, as well as the wider Armdale area, access to the many activities we have to offer. Contributing through the pre-authorized remittance program, PAR, or weekly envelopes has a big impact on our ability to function effectively.

I would like to thank Don MacKay for his valuable service as Interim Treasurer for the last year and a half. He was a tireless worker on your behalf and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. On a personal note, I would like to thank him for all the assistance he has given me as I navigated the many aspects of the role of Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Knechtel, Treasurer

## **BETHANY UNITED CHURCH INVESTMENTS**

The church's **unrestricted** financial account holdings (by investment type) as of December 31, 2018 are:

### **Securities**

<u>Common Shares</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Bank of Nova Scotia	1,759	\$ 119,699.95
Royal Bank of Canada	853	\$ 79,704.32
Toronto Dominion Bank	93	\$ 6,310.98
Canadian Imperial Bank Of Commerce	17	\$ 1,728.56
BCE Inc	89	\$ 4,799.77
Great West Life	152	\$ 4,283.36
Fortis Inc	109	\$ 4,960.59
Emera Inc	135	\$ 5,900.85
<b>Total Value of Shares</b>		<b>\$227,388.38</b>

Accumulated Dividends	\$ 9,647.03
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### **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

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 United Church - 2 Yr. Financial Comparison with 2019 Budget

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	2019	2018	2017
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Contributions	392,060.00	\$ 385,269.00	\$ 382,283.00
Year-End Appeal	\$ -	-	\$ 7,600.00
Rentals	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 20,154.00	\$ 13,080.00
Parking	\$ 51,750.00	\$ 51,801.00	\$ 52,136.00
Fall Fair	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 32,669.00	\$ 20,026.00
Movie	\$ -		\$ 1,716.00
Spring Gala Auction	\$ -		\$ 16,132.00
Memorial Donations	\$ 4,590.00	\$ 5,678.00	\$ 5,540.00
Dividends & Int.	\$ -	\$ 10,394.00	\$ 8,751.00
Jazz Vespers	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 1,227.00
Funerals	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,758.00	\$ 7,845.00
Christmas Trees	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,250.00
Joy Lunch Club	\$ 170.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 2,280.00
Other	\$ 2,240.00	\$ 1,357.00	\$ 3,923.00
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 505,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 511,437.00</b>	<b>\$ 523,789.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, Benefits, Travel	\$ 305,950.00	\$ 290,675.00	\$ 284,568.00
Premises	\$ 144,460.00	\$ 147,536.00	\$ 182,534.00
Music	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 3,959.00	\$ 4,501.00
Office	\$ 22,400.00	\$ 22,135.00	\$ 31,259.00
Christian Education	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 2,981.00	\$ 3,042.00
Worship Ministry	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,566.00	\$ 1,493.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$ 16,400.00	\$ 14,612.00	\$ 14,833.00
Communications	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,385.00	\$ 2,927.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 505,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 486,849.00</b>	<b>\$ 525,157.00</b>

<b>Financial Statement Breakdown:</b>			
<b>Net operating Income / Loss</b>	\$ -	\$ 24,588.00	\$ (1,367.00)
<b>before bequests and stock donations</b>			
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Stock Donations	\$ -	\$ 10,823.00	\$ 9,803.00
Unrealized gains(losses) on sto	\$ -	\$ (33,255.00)	\$ 20,148.00
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 2,156.00</b>	<b>\$ 28,584.00</b>

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION AND SERVICE (M & S) FUND IN 2018**

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

Mission and Service Contributions/Envelopes:	\$22,226.24
M & S UCW	\$ 525.00
M & S World Development	\$ 329.00
	<hr/>
Total:	\$23,080.24

## **CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN – 2018**

Total envelope issues for 2018: 266 (this includes 92 families on PAR)

Total numbers with Zero balance: 25

### **Contributions between:**

\$1.00 - \$100:	32	\$1001 - \$2500:	73
\$101 - \$500:	67	\$2501 - \$5000:	17
\$501 - \$1000:	46	Over \$5000:	15

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2018**

\$5, 678.54

*Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all members and adherents who contributed to the memoriam bulletin donations for 2018 "in memory" and all charitable donations made to honour loved ones and friends.*

## **VOLUNTEERS**

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

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



## Brookfield Fund

Once again we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2018. This auxiliary fund began ninety-four 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, 2018	—————	\$2,048.98
New funds in 2018	—————	\$0.00
Expenditures in 2018	—————	\$100.00
Balance December 31, 2018	———	\$1,948.98

Respectfully submitted,  
George Russell, Treasurer

## **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 donations from the Bethany Players, Silent Movie Night 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**

	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
<b>Opening balance as of January 1, 2018</b>		<b>\$1,045.70</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
UCW donations		\$ 600.00
Bethany Players		\$ 937.12
Silent Movie		\$ 500.00
Individual donations		\$ 590.50
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Amount disbursed	\$ 2,559.35	
<b>Closing balance as of December 31, 2018</b>		<b>\$1,113.97</b>

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The congregation approved a resolution in June 2018 to do a major renovation/upgrade to Bethany United Church with an estimated cost of \$1,200,000. In September 2018 a Capital Campaign committee was formed with the following members:

- Don MacKay
- Gordon Lawley
- Linda Knechtel
- Bill Piercey
- Doug Shields
- David Rackham

The committee has been very active since October 2018 and we are able to inform the congregation as we approach our 2018 annual meeting that we have in pledges from members and adherents of just over \$1,200,000 and \$850,000 of this amount in the capital campaign bank account. I want to thank all those who have donated to this important initiative. We have received donations/pledges from 100 families to date. We continue to encourage anyone in the congregation who has not contributed to do so. We welcome any amount, all contributions are welcome. We want as much participation as possible. Our goal is to have 150 members/adherents participate in the campaign.

Please feel free to speak to any member of the committee for information and a pledge form.

Joyfully submitted,

Don MacKay, Co-Chair, Capital Campaign

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees met as required during 2018 on the call of the Chair. Much of the Trustees' work over the course of the year was administrative. There were no major initiatives for consideration by the Board in 2017. I want to express my appreciation to my fellow Trustees, Heather Brophy, Lynne Legg, Jim Musgrave, Les Russell, Jerry Slaunwhite, Bill Piercey, Laura King, and Don MacKay for their ongoing support of Bethany and the work of the Board.

Andy Williams, Chair

# SESSION

Rev. Kevin Little – (2015 - )  
Carol Knapp – Clerk of Session (2015 - )  
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)

## LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION

Charles McCurdy (1966)

### **One Year Term**

Don Grant

### **(2019)**

Gordon Lawley  
Daniel Jackson  
Carolyn Kunz

### **(2020)**

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

### **(2021)**

Carol Knapp  
Charles Baxter  
Don Grant  
Pat Farmer  
Don Mackay  
Andy Williams

### **(2022)**

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

### **(2023)**

Pam Carter  
Bill Piercey  
Louisa Duck  
Scott Grant  
Glenn Tozer  
David Rackham  
Zenora Rackham

## MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2018

### **Social Outreach -**

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

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

### **Communication Ministry-**

No members

### **Worship Ministry**

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

**Communion** Don Grant

**Head Usher** Pam Carter

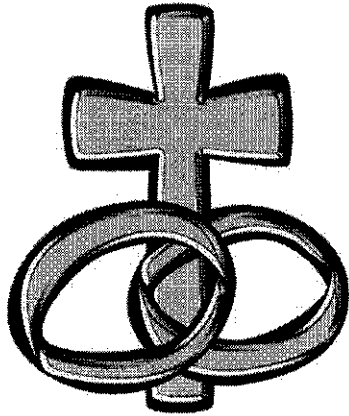
**Transportation** Heather Gillis  
Harriet King

\* Member at Large

R Retired

## 2018 BAPTISMS

Isla Nicholson



## 2018 MARRIAGES

Paul Miller & Caron Daley

Jason Shield & Stephanie Thornhill

Brandon Berringer & Leslie Beer

Fernando Nunes & Stephanie MacLaren

## BETHANY SESSION REPORT

	2016	2017	2018
Number of Elders on December 31 (Including Emeritus members)	31	40	33
Total number of families under Pastoral Charge	325	348	349
Number Baptized	6	5	1
Number of Marriages	5	1	4
Number of Funerals	19	17	13
Received by Profession of Faith	5	5	3
Received by Certificate of Transfer	8	21	16

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

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

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

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

The following are some of the matters discussed at the meetings of the Worship Committee during 2018: -

1. selecting Rev. Rachel Parker, Rector of St. John’s Anglican Church, as our guest preacher for the October Anniversary Service;
2. confirming the use of the large clock in the Sanctuary;
3. recommending Ann Bradley and Louise Duck as guest preachers during the month of July while Rev. Little was on vacation;
4. changing the format of conducting communion services;
5. approval of the use of the monthly “What’s Happening at Bethany Guide” in Sunday services.

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

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

A special thank-you to Don Grant who after many years of dedicated service to the Congregation has retired as Head Usher. Pam Carter has agreed to succeed Don as Head Usher.

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: -

- suggestion that Food Bank envelopes not be distributed on Easter Sunday;
- the use of glass communion cups as opposed to plastic cups for the communion services;
- a proposal that during Coffee Hour a selection of herbal teas be offered to anyone who prefers tea.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2018 were as follows: -

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Non-Staff</u>
Rev. Kevin Little Shawn Whynot Louisa Duck	Bev. Grant Carolyn Kunz Bill Piercey

Bill Piercey  
Chair



## **LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY**

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

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

his past year we served our traditional meal of ham and scalloped potatoes at the St Andrew's Sunday Suppers in April and September. 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 March, the Bethany Players donated all proceeds from their uplifting performance of "In Our Neighborhood" to outreach. These funds are greatly appreciated and provide much needed assistance to the Sunday Suppers and agencies we support on a regular basis.

In April and October a No Food - Food Bank Sunday was sponsored by the committee to assist the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. These two Sundays raised \$5,200 for the Food Bank. The Committee also donated funds to supply snacks to the Phoenix Drop – In Centre where many at risk youth gather each day. The Bethany Youth Groups also donated healthy snacks and fresh fruit to the Food for Phoenix program.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Through the Clothing Box, Brunswick Street Mission, Phoenix Programs for Youth, and the Salvation Army received many articles of warm clothing, and so many of you generously donated non-perishable food items and funds to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank to provide meals and Christmas dinners. In addition, 130 gifts were donated to the Angel Tree and were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution.

On a holiday Monday in May and a morning in December just after Christmas, 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.

This past year funds were donated to The Alzheimer's Society of NS as they have been actively assisting and educating our congregation and Congregational Care Team at workshops and luncheons. We also donated funds in support of Club Inclusion, a non-profit organization that supports youth with disabilities. They are housed across the street from Bethany at St. James Anglican.

The committee wishes to thank the congregation for their warm and generous support, both financially and in other many and various ways over the past year. I would also like to thank the committee members for their dedication and efforts in the work that they do to serve others in our community. Thanks also to Dana Mills and Lyn McMillan for their administrative assistance and support.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Bradley, Chair

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018**  
**Local Outreach Committee of Bethany United Church**

**Revenue**

Balance forwarded from 2017	4983.67
Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach	13440.42
Toonies for Tummies	175.00
Play	937.13
Interest	1.26

**TOTAL      19537.48**

**Disbursements and Expenses**

Adsum House	800.00
Bryony House	1100.00
Hope Cottage	800.00
Saint Andrew's Sunday Suppers	1159.53
Brunswick Street Mission	2400.00
Camp Kidston	800.00
General camp fund    200	
Sponsor a child      600	
Fairview United Resource Centre	900.00
Long Term Services for Youth(Phoenix programs)	2275.00
Laing House	600.00
Metro Turning Point	1100.00
Food vouchers(church office)	350.00
Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank	1800.00
Club Inclusion	500.00
Alzheimer's Society	300.00
Cheques	34.65

**Total    14919.18**

**Total revenue    19537.48**

**Funds disperse    14919.18**

**Balance            4618.30**

Respectively submitted

Anne Pugh  
Treasurer

## **Ministry and Personnel**

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee, consists of church members or adherents selected to support pastoral relationships. Duties of the M&P Committee 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 the 2018 year the M&P Committee met 14 times. Interviews were held with each staff member in the spring and in the fall.

Any member or adherent of the congregation may ask to meet in confidence with the committee as a whole. If preferred, the member or adherent can speak one on one with a member of the committee or submit a letter to the committee.

Members of the committee are Bonnie Boyd-Read, Heather Brophy, Bob Grant, Gloria Hardy, David Reid and Sherri-Lynn Richardson. Bonnie Boyd-Reid joined our committee in 2018. Two members, Heather Brophy and David Reid have completed their terms and will be leaving the committee. As Chair, I want to extend my appreciation to Heather for her many years of dedicated service and wise counsel. I have been so fortunate to have volunteers from different backgrounds giving freely of their time, bringing years of experience and common sense to this committee. All have the same goal, and that is to ensure Bethany continues to be a warm and welcoming community.

Bethany United Church is very fortunate to have such dedicated staff and volunteers, working with the best interests of Bethany at heart.

Respectfully submitted,

David Reid

Chairperson

*1 Corinthians 13:1-6*

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

## Revelation Committee

### New name: Community Connections Working Group

The Revelation Committee has completed its original mandate of completing the suggestions made by the 20/20 Visioning Committee. The committee will continue under the new name the Community Connections Working Group. Its mandate will be to support the work of existing community programs in our church. It will also include introducing new programs identified as helpful to Bethany's ministry in our broader community, as scheduling and our volunteer base will allow.

Bethany is moving forward in its goal of developing greater engagement with the broader community. This brings benefits to those who participate, and it also makes our whole church a more vibrant, connected, and relevant organization. It is helping us growing in numbers, involvement, and in spirit.

The following programs are already supported by the Community Connections Working Group:

- **Walk and Talk** began in November and meets weekly on Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 11:30. We are partnering again with the Community Health team this January. A special needs class from ISANS has been joining us as well. Gingerdrake will also join us once a month. Kevin continues to meet with us the first Wednesday of each month for engaging conversation.
- **ISANS** – The Sewing Circle has been meeting on Thursday mornings 10:00 – 12:00 in the Parlour. They are using the Nursery to store their machines and supplies.
- **ISANS** - A new conversation circle began mid- October with 12 Bethany volunteers supporting the ISANS facilitator on a rotational schedule. The class consists of 10 immigrants age 55 plus with very little spoken English. They meet here every Wednesday afternoon.
- **Meditation** sessions with Yvone Macor continue once a week on Thursdays in the Chapel seasonally. The winter session will begin February 14th. We are very grateful to Yvonne for offering this program
- **Community Meals** – are again being offered during the Winter and Spring months.

A new program will be undertaken this winter, an outreach to make lunches in support of a local a shelter. This initially will be a pilot project for our youth group once a month during the winter and spring seasons. We hope this project will become a regular monthly outreach and will include volunteers of all ages from our Bethany community.

The Community Connections Working Committee welcomes anyone wishing to volunteer with our work to get in touch. There are many opportunities for involvement, and the more active volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish in our programs. Participating is enjoyable, fulfilling, and fun. It brings one a sense of contributing to community, as well as a sense of belonging to it. If you would like to volunteer with any of our programs, please contact Ann Bradley or Cheri Wilson, the group co-ordinators.

## **Fall Fair Report**

Bethany's Fall Fair rose to new dimensions this year. There are a number of reasons for this, and there were many people who made our annual fund raiser the best ever. Donations were up, the quality of donations was also up, there was the fullest coverage of advertising we've ever had, the numbers attending the Fall Fair were up, our silent auction was the best ever, we held a raffle for the first time, and we improved our pricing. Also, we had more volunteers working this fair than ever before.

Just before the doors opened at 9:00 AM for the Fair to begin, 247 people stood in line waiting for the doors to open. They were lined up all the way down the block and around the corner. Our Armdale community loves this fair! At the door we charged \$1.00 admission, and 823 adults paid to come in. The fair was busy from start until closing time. We ran out of hamburgers, fish chowder, pantry items, and Meals To Go. Every table or shop increased their sales. Everyone had a great time, workers and shoppers alike. Three hours after the fair the entire church premises looked as it had never happened, all in time for an evening memorial service. What a team! Positively remarkable! This is Bethany!

Our total profits, after all expenses paid, were \$33,951.35 which is a significant jump from previous years. The complete information is attached to this report. It also includes a list of how much money each individual shop, or table, earned. For those tables that apply, such as crafts, jewelry, books, and home décor, amounts also include earnings that continued after the fair.

A Fall Fair committee follow-up meeting was held to discuss the operations of this fund raiser, things that worked well, things that need some change, and a list of suggestions were compiled for next year's event. These suggestions are also attached, should you wish to read them.

Your co-chairs, Sue, Margie, and Cheri, are thrilled with the exceptional results of this year's fair, and we thank all the many people who contributed to this success. 2018 was our retirement year, but we look forward to giving lots of support to whoever comes forward to coordinate next year's Fall Fair. It will soon be time for the planning to begin, so please speak to anyone from the Board of Managers or from Executive Board, if you would like to help coordinate next year's fair. It is a lot of fun, and if two or three people take on the job together it is a very manageable task.

Bethany, we are a strong family of workers and contributors, and this makes us "outstanding in our field"! Congratulations to everyone! It is a joy to see how every person in our church family makes donations of time, talent, goods to sell, and/or money to help with expenses. We thank each and all of you for your commitments to the Fall Fair, and to the workings of our church. We especially thank our amazing staff, who are there for us with their many volunteer contributions. Well done one and all! Bravo!

Sue Bolton, Margie Guy, and Cheri Wilson

## **Suggestions and recommendations from the Fall Fair Committee**

The co-chairs from Fall Fair 2018 have two requests for spending proceeds from the Fall Fair:

1. A piece of new equipment for Jimmy, which he would pick out.
2. A bill counting machine and a coin counting machine for the office. (The new bills are particularly difficult to count.)

The Fall Fair Committee has the following suggestions and questions for consideration:

1. The Fair has grown year by year, and now has reached a point where our building is at capacity. Should we divide this fund raiser in two, holding one in the spring as well? What would this entail for work crews and storage? How could we go about dividing the fair? Perhaps a committee could be formed to explore this.
2. This year there was much more furniture donated and at the last minute we had no choice but to let it overflow into the sanctuary. While some people may have felt uncomfortable with using the sanctuary, the space was treated respectfully, and appeared to offer "sanctuary" from the barrage of shoppers in the other places. I noticed a few people just having a quiet moment sitting in a pew to find a moment of balance from the busy rooms and hallways. The question for another year is do we cut way back on or furniture donations, or do we feel it is alright to use the sanctuary again, if the space is needed?
3. Regarding the amount of furniture, it was suggested we no longer accept bulky sofa's and armchairs, unless they are of exceptional quality.
4. The placement of all the various "shops" seemed to work well. Many shops could use more room, but everyone graciously accepted more room was not an option. There is always 'room' for discussion on this, and some changes could be made for another year to see if other layouts are more efficient.
5. Another big topic of discussion was storage. When do we start collecting donations? Could we wait as late as July to begin? Is the stage the best place to store boxes, or would it be better to use the gym? For the last number of years, the day care from next door uses the gym all summer, but the money earned in rent is less than the money to rent a POD for storage. Would we like to keep the fellowship hall free for weddings and other summer events? Do we wish to give the day care the space at their currently low rates? Or would we prefer to keep the gym available for Fall Fair organizing.
6. Pricing needs to be reviewed, especially in some areas. Prices should reflect the value of the item. The prices have always been kept low at our fair, and in many ways that is a good thing. People love our prices! However, in the case of some donations, we should seek assistance, as happened this year in Home Décor when a well know appraiser came in to make suggestions. It is recommended the Retro shop seek help with this too. Also, while we especially like to see our linens easily accessible for those in need, perhaps a few of the items that are especially nice, like hand-made quilts, might be priced a bit higher. It was also recommended that the pantry shop could raise prices, including Meals to Go, and as well, the BBQ.
7. It was recommended we look into getting a tent for the toy shop so there is more room to display, and also it would free up some much-needed room in the gym.

8. While all our leftover things went to Value Village this year, we were paid by the pound for our drop off to them, some people would like to see our left over items go to a variety of charities. Because the clean-up after the fair has to be completed within 2 -3 hours in order for the workings of the church to continue, taking all the items to one place is expedient. If anyone in the congregation wishes to be in charge of donating and distributing our left-over goods to a variety of charities, that would be fine. But whatever ways we donate and distribute things, it must happen in the 2 – 3 hour time frame. Nothing can be left behind for people to pick up at another time.
9. We are thinking it is time for a name change for Home Décor. (The Finer things, The China Shoppe, other suggestions ... ?)
10. While there are always a few shop lifters who enjoy our fair, we have managed to deal with that issue in the past. Is it easier to let a few instances of this happen, or would we prefer to devise a system of identifying items which have been purchased? Currently we have a team of spotters who are at the ready watching the crowds, and speaking with people when it is obviously necessary.
11. Pantry always sells out quickly. Are we able to get more food prepared for the sale? Could we do some group work in the summer making jams and pickles? Could we broaden out Meals to Go? Could our pricing go higher?
12. Many thanks go to Joel Powell for always lending us his debit and credit machine. We couldn't handle the silent auction table without it. The co-chairs of the 2018 Fall Fair, recommend our Bethany Board of Managers consider the pros and cons of getting a debit/credit machine for Bethany. Although there is cost involved, it could be useful in many ways including the Fall Fair.
13. The BBQ experts recommend that in future all hamburgers come from "real beef", preferably local, and not prepared and boxed patties. The customers raved about the hamburgers this year. We can buy the good meat and raise the price. Another year it was recommended we buy our buns from Stone Hearth Bakery, a bakery workshop for handicapped adults.
14. People loved having a raffle, so we recommend another for next year.
15. Displaying goods is always a challenge, especially for some shops. We recommend in future the walls be available for display so long as the no-damage strips are used exclusively. Some shops in particular need extra display room, including jewelry (for purses), crafts, and Home Décor.
16. It was requested that there be no Wednesday sorting in the fellowship hall during the week of Vacation Bible School.
17. As the availability of single use plastics will be diminishing, perhaps we should make an effort to have multiple use Bethany shopping bags for sale next year. (Another fund raiser? They could be handmade bags, maybe saying something like "Bethany, your community church".

Many thanks to Elizabeth Carter for bringing some friends from her school to help us the day of the fair. It gave the girls a chance to fill in their required volunteer hours and it gave us help with

## Children and Family Care Ministry

Our Sunday School over the past year numbered about thirty children, with about twenty present from week to week. The children have studied the miracles of Jesus, Paul's travels, some of the stories in Acts, and learned about being part of the family of God by studying stories of biblical families such as Abraham and Sarah. The Sunday School looked after three services last year. On May 27, we held our Celebration Sunday service to mark the end of our Sunday School year. We presented two Grade 3 Bibles, and three prayer shawls were to our high school graduates: Ben Weatherston, Madeline Whynot, and Sophie Whynot. The picnic followed immediately, with a new, much-enjoyed menu of pasta casseroles and salad. On November 18, the Children's Service introduced our service project for the fall. We sold soup mix and brownie mix to raise money to purchase fruit trees for schools through PLAN International. We raised \$446, enough to purchase thirty-seven trees. This is matched five times through PLAN, so 185 trees will be planted. Our Christmas Eve service was very well-attended. Dan Isner once again very kindly provided Rosie the Donkey for this service, as well as the Living Nativity on December 14, and we thank him for his continued generous support. Avelinn McConnell was Mary this year, and Andrew Rice was Joseph. Phinneas Roddick, grandson of Annie Bayne, was our baby Jesus. Music for all three services was provided by our JAM choir.

JAM continued to be a busy and active group of nine children. Along with all the music, we also worked on some drama and public speaking, and talked about caring for creation. Jimmy dug gardens for us along two sides of the sunflower house, and we planted bulbs chosen to draw bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, so in the spring and summer we will have some lovely gardens, and will continue to care for these as an ongoing project.

Vacation Bible School was held July 9-14, and was very successful. Fifteen students from age 5 to 12 gathered each day to learn about building faith and community. Charlotte Moase worked with the children, and we also had two grade 8 volunteers who are past participants in the programme, Willow Ryder and Abby Titus. This worked really well, as it allowed us to work in small groups, and we had enough people to take a couple of trips to the park. The children had lots of active play, building activities based on Scripture, some cooking, games, stories and artwork. This is always a fun week, and everyone enjoyed their time here.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry was very active once again. We distributed twenty-two shawls last year, and blessed forty, so we have a continuous supply. This continues to be a very successful ministry, and we are blessed to have so many dedicated crafters who contribute so generously of their time and talents.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Louisa Duck  
Children and Family Care Ministry





## Community Engagement Ministry

We continue to be blessed at Bethany with a thriving group of youth! It is a privilege to minister with this enthusiastic group of young people who enjoy being together in community. This past year has been a bustle of activity for the **SKILLS** children and **Youth Group** with Sunday night gatherings. Some of the highlights for the youth this past year included a board game night, making t-shirt bags, Meditation with Yvonne Macor, painting props for the Bethany Players production, learning to sew with Jackie Clairmont and Andrea Mitchell, an outdoor hike on Earth Day to enjoy God's beautiful gift of creation as we collected litter, 2 garbage bags full! Four of our youth attended a United Church GO Project Retreat weekend at St. John's United. The GO Project focuses on building community, social justice and outreach. They had a great time connecting with youth from other United Churches in HRM. Our youth group led Jazz Vespers in May with invited guest Elder Billy Lewis. Elder Billy joined the youth before the service for a conversation circle as he offered insight as to how we can live with respect for all of Creation, the theme of our service. This Jazz Vespers service combined music, Word and Indigenous Art to help portray an important message. In June we met at my home on Chocolate Lake for boating and swimming followed by a sleepover at the church for grades 8 -12; not much sleep, but a whole lot of fun!

We reunited in September with a bonfire and kayaking on Chocolate Lake. This fall brought low enrollment for our SKILLS program, children in grades 5 and 6, therefore the SKILLS program has been put on hold until there are enough children to offer this program again in the future. The Youth Group returned to its original formation of youth in grades 7 -12. Dana Mills offered to be a volunteer leader on a regular basis with this group and we are thankful for her time and talent. Some highlights of the fall were making food for Phoenix Youth, a shoe collection for youth in need, assisting with the Fall Fair and Silent Movie Event and a fun Halloween Spook Night. GingerDrake, our Congregational Care Dog spent an evening with the youth as we learned the importance of this pet ministry from GingerDrake's owner Roxanne Sperry. 2018 came to a close with our annual Old Fashioned Christmas in support of Phoenix Youth. The youth group led worship and shared a film they made based on the Christmas story. Thank you to all who assist with Old Fashioned Christmas, especially to Laura King and Christie Chisholm! Phoenix House is very thankful to Bethany for their continued support.

**The JOY Lunch** program also continues to thrive as the hospitality of our Bethany folk spreads beyond our doors. Special guests have included Mary MacCara Reid sharing her book on Pharmacists and the Halifax Explosion; Kirstie Creighton of the Alzheimer's Society of NS; Anne Louise DesRosier on The Club Inclusion; a concert by the Springvale School Music Ensembles; Agar Smith from Brunswick Street Mission; Carrie-Anne Smith on the History of Pier 21 and its role during World War II and Grant Chisholm shared his photos of Christmas in Halifax after the Explosion. 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, Jenn Manuel joined us once a month January –April with her Ready, Set, Move program; educating seniors on how to stay physically active throughout each day. This program was well attended and we will partner with the Community Health Team again next winter.

In February during the season of Lent, Yvonne Macor, volunteered to facilitate **Guided Meditation** sessions on Mondays and Thursdays. These sessions were held in the MacKinnon Chapel and were well attended by Bethany folk and the surrounding community. Those whom attended were pleased when Yvonne was able to offer another session April – June. This past fall, once a week, we continued to meet in the Chapel. Meditation boasts many health benefits; resting and rejuvenating the mind, body, and spirit. We are very grateful to Yvonne for volunteering 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.

An initiative that came out of the work of the Revelation Committee at the Congregational Workshop held in 2017 was to be of support to new immigrants through **Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)**. This past year Bethany hosted two conversation circles with Bethany volunteers being of support to the ISANS instructors, one session took place January – March and this past fall we hosted another class once a week. 12 Bethany volunteers, through a rotational schedule, enjoyed engaging in very beginning level conversation with new immigrants age 55 plus. We hope that this outreach program will continue on a regular basis and new Bethany volunteers will join us! Bethany is now home to the **ISANS Sewing Circle**, a group of new immigrants that meet weekly to sew together. We are also pleased to welcome two new immigrants from the **ISANS program for disabled students, who attend Walk and Talk** each week with their instructors. Please greet our newcomers with a warm hello, they will be happy to practice speaking “Canadian” with you!

A new ministry was developed at Bethany in 2018, a ministry where Bethany people care and support one another; **the Ministry of Congregational Care**. Over 20 volunteers attended a workshop in May, led by Rev. Kevin, myself and invited guests to train for this important ministry. **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. Roxanne Sperry, a student at AST approached us and asked if her therapy dog in training could be a part of our Care Team, making visits to those who would enjoy the company of this loving canine. Three members of our Care Team having taken on the role of “Dog Handler” and are happy to bring GingerDrake to small groups and visits when requested. GingerDrake has been to worship on a Sunday morning, coffee hour, Youth Group, Sunday School, and Walk and Talk as well as playing an active role in the Living Nativity in December!

I would like to express my thanks to Kevin for once again inviting me to preside on Sunday mornings this past July 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

## United Church Women

The two active units of our UCW (MacKinnon and Wilson Units) support Bethany and various outreach programs. We raise funds through various activities throughout the year such as our Annual "No Bake Sale" in February, our Spring Brunch in April and a Christmas Turkey Supper and Silent Auction in November.

We organized and staffed the Pantry Table at the Fall Fair in October and assisted in other areas as well.

In December we assembled 30 Christmas gift bags for the Congregational Care Team to deliver to the people they visited.

We are thankful for the support of the congregation in all of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany UCW Executive

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT BETHANY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 01 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2018

<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Bank Balance 31 Dec. 17	1,108.57	Mission and Service	500.00
Bank Interest	0.84	Camp Kidston	200.00
Envelopes	540.50	Bethany Benevolent Fund	500.00
Donations	<u>2,585.00</u>	Bethany United Church	<u>5,100.00</u>
	<b>4,234.91</b>		<b>6,300.00</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
No Bake Sale	1,858.00	Project Expenses	975.00
Christmas Dinner & Silent Auction	3,569.00	Operating Expenses	125.00
Spring Brunch	<u>570.00</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>200.00</u>
	<b>5,997.00</b>		<b>1,300.00</b>
 		<b>Bank Balance - 31 Dec. 18</b>	<b>2,631.91</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>10,231.91</u></b>		<b><u>10,231.91</u></b>

## Flower Fund Committee Report

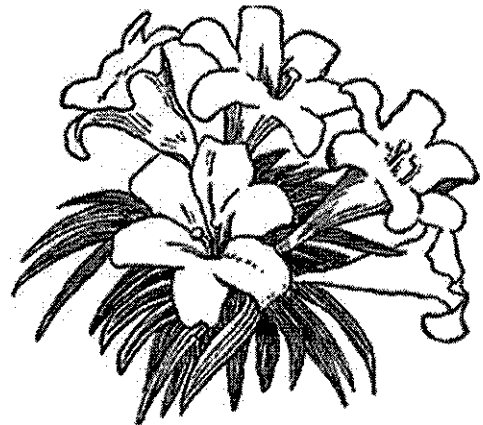
The Flower Committee has a mandate to enhance the beauty of Bethany throughout the year by supplying floral arrangements and seasonal decorations. We have a large supply of silk and artificial arrangements which are available for use in the Narthex, Sanctuary, Chapel, and Fellowship Hall for weekly services 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 HOME DÉCOR section of the annual Fall Fair.

We were saddened in December by the death of long time supporter Lorne Finley. Lorne has been responsible for setting up the Christmas lights in the Fellowship Hall for many years, and we will miss his expertise and good company.

The members of the committee are:

- Barbara McCurdy, Chair
- Evelyn Smith, Secretary
- Carolyn Kunz and Julie Johnson, Co-Treasurers
- Janice MacDonald
- Zenora Rackham
- Karen Hatcher
- Goldie Hardy
- Isabel Steeves
- Sheila Gray
- Sharon Wentzell
- Lynn Legge
- Karen Finley
- Ida Berry



We are happy to welcome any other Bethany members who would like to lend a hand, especially at Christmas and Thanksgiving. If interested, please reach out to any of the above members.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara McCurdy

# **Bethany Memorial Flower Fund**

## **Financial Statement 2018**

**Opening Balance January 1, 2018** **1,849.50**

### **Revenue**

Easter Donations	150.00
Christmas Donations (rec'd in Jan. For 2017)	1,850.00
Misc. Deposit	154.99
Interest for 2018	1.35

### **Expenses**

Easter Fresh Flowers	59.97
Thanksgiving Decorating	163.36
Christmas Decorating (Fall Fair Purchase)	90.00

**Balance December 31, 2018** **3,692.73**

### **Investments**

GIC	2,338.65
GIC	1,547.62
GIC	1,759.04
GIC Interested Reinvested	84.77

**Total of Investments** **5,645.31**

## Coffee Hour Ministry

It is with great pleasure that I write my first report for the Coffee Time Ministry at Bethany.

In the fall of 2017, I was called to become the coordinator after Mary Lawley stepped down from organizing this important fellowship time that she started in the mid 1970's. I remember when Mary first approached me to be a volunteer in 2001. It is a wonderful ministry that brings people together to chat and get to know one another after our morning service.

Coffee Time has evolved with the donation of the electronic brewing system. We serve over 100 folks hot tea & coffee with this efficient system. At the request of members, in January, we began offering a selection of herbal tea. We have also become more environmentally responsible by using mugs rather than styrofoam cups.

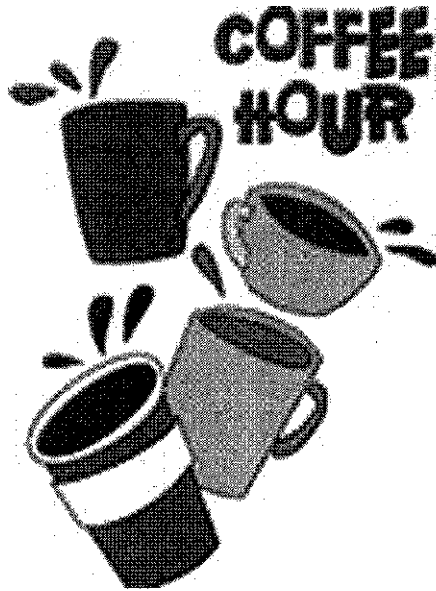
The "Birthday Ministry" on the first Sunday of each month, has us sharing cake and celebrating all those who have a birthday coming up that month.

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.

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 has evolved into the Bethany Men's Club which provides an opportunity for men of the congregation to meet informally, enjoy a meal and a speaker.

There is an annual fee of \$60 which covers the cost of meals for the five meetings. Men of the congregation who have not paid the annual fee are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$15 per meeting. Meals are prepared by Chef Tim Cormier and his family, and David Reid. In 2018, there were five meetings with 64 paid members and an average of 50 attendance.

Speaker for this past year were:

- February - Meeting cancelled because of snow storm
- March – Dr. Mark Taylor "Lessons Learned Doing Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery".
- April - Bert Walker, a Trustee of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust – “HMCS Sackville”
- May - Dr. Mark King “The Southwest Kenya Village Drill” (a unique, human powered water drilling rig)
- November - Kathleen Hall and Robin Whyte “The Urban Wilderness Park” informally known as the Purcell's Cove Backlands.
- December – Annual Christmas Music and carol sing with the members of the Salvation Army band and members of Bethany's Men's Choir

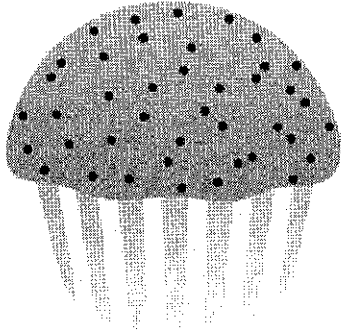
Notice of the meetings is published in the weekly church bulletin. Ian Parker chairs the meetings and Randy Tyler looks after communication.

For those of you who have been members for the last few years you may recall that at our May meeting we had talked about there being a surplus as we were very fortunate in managing our costs. So the Men's Club has donated \$1000 to the capital campaign, \$300.00 to be used to purchase equipment for the kitchen and \$300.00 was donated towards the cost of the new improved sound system in the Rev. Ewen Moase Fellowship Hall.

Finally we would like to express our thanks to our secretary Norman Graham for his continued support of this popular group. Norm has been our secretary for as long as any of us can remember and has decided to stepdown at the end of 2018. Thanks for volunteering Norm and giving our organization the most precious thing you will ever own – your time and talent.

Ian Parker, Chair

## MUFFIN CLUB



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. 9:00 A.M. Lesson begins.

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

The Muffin Club was started in 1988 with a goal of studying God's Word and how it applies to our lives today. It provides an opportunity to participate in lively discussion, share in great fellowship, offer prayer and support to one another and share coffee/tea and muffins, 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 2018 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 our clergy attends Muffin Club as their schedule allows.

Over and above our regular church donations, we contributed to some other causes, which in 2018 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 Soul's Harbour soup kitchen
- Southwest Kenya Village Drill Project in Nandi County, Kenya.

(In looking at options for donations, we heard about the hand-operated Village Drill. The goal is to install wells at locations that can provide ongoing maintenance of the well and hand pump, such as schools, medical centres, churches and mosques. The Southwest Kenya Village Drill project is operated as a small business that generates income for up to 6 Kenyan workers. So far 8 wells have been drilled.)

As this is written, we mark the passing of our dear friend, Lorne Finley. Lorne was one of the first and a long-time member of the "Club" and we miss his thoughtful observations. This past year he was not able to attend the meetings, but always welcomed visits with a smile.

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

We pray that during 2019 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



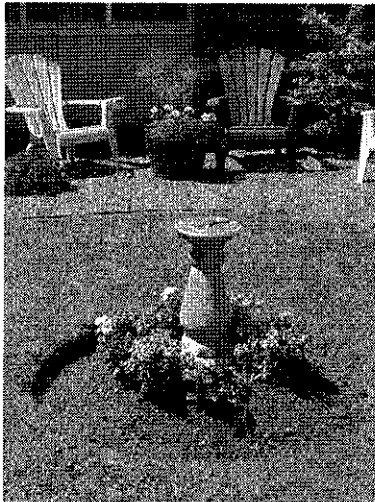
## PIERCEY MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

The mandate of this committee was to renew and rejuvenate the existing garden space in the inner courtyard of the Bethany Church complex.

Most of this work was completed last year, following a plan drawn up by Kelly Grant, a landscape designer.

This year's projects included the following:

- A brass sundial was placed on the cement pedestal in the center of the garden space
- White lattice was extended along the exposed cement wall next to the gymnasium



- A lovely antiqued brass plaque, which was donated last year, was mounted on a black wooden picture board and hung from a holder near the entrance to the garden
  - An sloped extension to the existing wooden entrance platform was installed and eight rubber tiles were placed at the end of this to provide improved access to the garden for anyone with mobility issues
  - Twelve solar lights were placed around the perimeter of the garden area
  - The last perennial plant on Kelly's list, a climbing hydrangea, was planted next to the brick wall by the choir room
- Annuals were purchased for the large garden tub, the space around the base of the sundial and for three rectangular containers near the walkway at the entrance to the garden

Maintenance of the garden from spring through fall was done by committee members, with assistance from Jim Sweet.

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

Respectfully submitted, Linda Knechtel, Chair

Come and enjoy a peaceful moment in the garden, it will refresh your soul.

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

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

This past year (2018) the two annual scholarship awards were granted in the amount of \$2000 each to Madeline Whynot (Bethany United Church) and Sophie Whynot (Bethany United Church).

## **Ministry of Music Report**

As I write my annual music report, I also will have just completed my 22nd year at Bethany United serving as your Director of Music. Time certainly has a way of flying by especially when you are having fun and enjoy what you are doing. The Bethany community has certainly been a supportive and vibrant community especially when it comes to the sacred arts. This past year has been no exception and I take time now to review some of the aspects and highlights of the past 12 months with regards to the music programs at Bethany United.

It is with great pleasure to welcome Thomas Duck to the Bethany Senior Choir under the auspices of the Lilian Piercey Music Scholarship. Thomas will 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. Welcome aboard Thomas!

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. Recently, this choir performed at the Parkland Seniors Residence, Halifax, for an audience of over 100 people. We were especially happy to perform on this occasion because our good friend and former member Jean Fredericks was in attendance.

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.

The Jazz Vespers Worship Series is now entering its 16th season at Bethany United Church. This worship series is presented as not only an alternative worship style focusing on contemporary genres of music, but acts as an outreach to the wider Christian community. Quite often Jazz Vespers will be attended by not only 'Bethany' people, but also a cross-section of people with no affiliation to Bethany. This series provides worship services the last Sunday of each month,

September through May and if you have not attended a vespers service I encourage you to do so. The music leadership is provided by the Bethany Jazz Quartet; Sean Webber, sax, Alison King, double bass, Ray Roberts, percussion, and me on the piano. One of the most exciting aspects of planning a vespers service is that it provides an opportunity to break away from our Sunday morning liturgical structure and explore new orders of worship.

Over the past year many concerts and musical events have happened at Bethany United. I would like to highlight a few of those events. Bethany hosted the Chester Brass Ensemble, with Ann Bradley, soprano, and me on organ for our third Canada Day Concert. This concert presentation continues to be well attended that I am hoping to make this an annual event for the Bethany and wider community. A personal highlight for me was to present 'Another Spooky Night at the Movies' and accompany the silent movie 'The Lodger.' The event was again very well attended and proved to be an excellent fundraiser for the church. My 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 NS Choral Federations Choral Conducting Symposium with renowned conductor Charles Bruffy. Planning ahead I serve on the Planning Committee for the RCCO National Organ Convention which will be held in Halifax, July 2019, and I will be attending this excellent educational opportunity. I continue to teach organ privately and currently have five students studying organ with me. I also continue to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and during this past summer I was a crew-leader at the Spryfield build site. This coming March I will be making my 5th trek to Guatemala under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity

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 our ever-evolving team ministry.

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



## Memorial Music Fund

**This fund consists of two separate accounts:**

**Rackham Fund**

**Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund**

<u>Memorial Music Fund</u> bank balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	\$7, 994.21
<u>Rackham Fund</u> balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	\$6,303.21
Donations received in 2018	\$ 237.00
Concerts:	
Canada Day Concert – Chester Brass & Organ	
Proceeds	\$1,465.00
Musicians Fees	\$1,050.00
Net Profit	\$ 415.00
Musicians Fee	(\$550.00)
Bank Charges	\$ 48.00 (\$ 48.00)
<u>Rackham Fund</u> balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	\$6,357.21
<u>Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund</u> balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	\$1,691.00
Donations received in 2018	\$ 400.00
Scholarship issued	(\$600.00)
<u>Lilian Piercey Scholarship Fund</u> balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	\$1,491.00
<u>Memorial Music Fund</u> bank balance December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	\$7, 848.21

## **AUDIO REPORT (Sanctuary)**

The Audio “group” comprises of a number of operators; including Glen Knap, Thomas Duck and Lucy Little. In addition to the above, we were pleased to have Daniel Carter and Maggie Duck helping with the Sanctuary sound and video camera.

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

- Sunday Services (52 in Sanctuary)
- Christmas Services, including Family Service & Communion Service.
- Good Friday Service
- Vespers Services (4)
- Funerals (8)
- Weddings and Wedding Rehearsals (2)

**Fellowship Hall:** The Sanctuary team 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, and equipment calibration and making of DVDs (15) of Sunday Service and Sanctuary events.

**Past Objectives:** Recording of Sunday Services has proceeded with near success in that the integration of both the audio and video elements has been achieved. Quality of the sound element was not up to reasonable standards. Some progress was achieved and continuity of the sound is considered stable.

Securing the services of a sound consultant was deferred.

**Current Objectives:** Considering the elimination of the current wireless radio frequency, considerable time has been invested in the research and procurement of two new wireless hard worn microphones. Purchase is planned for early 2019.

The current direction of presenting a copy of Sunday Sermons for viewing on Bethany’s web site is moving forward with greater momentum through Krista Whitehouse. Welcome Krista.

This report is presented to the members and adherents of Bethany United Church in memory of Lorne Finley; operator emeritus.

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.

This 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 (The play: In Our Neighbourhood)

Funerals and celebrations.

Fellowship Hall rentals

Sanctuary presentations included:

Church Services and Jazz Vespers

Children's Sundays and Camp Sunday

Silent Movie Night (The Lodger)

A complete overhaul of Sound System in the Fellowship Hall was completed. Now everyone should be able to hear events presented in the Fellowship Hall. Judging from the comments from the recent play, everyone in the audience could hear the dialog

### **Financial Statement**

#### **Opening Balance for 2018**

**\$3904.23**

#### **INCOME**

Funeral and Fellowship Hall Rental fees

\$ 500.00

Donations for the new system

\$ 900.00

#### **EXPENSES**

New Audio System

(4 Powered Speakers, Mixer, microphones, cabling and enclosures)

\$4734.97

**Closing Balance December 31, 2018**

**\$ 569.26**

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

Respectively Submitted: Barry Paton



