



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Bedford United Church

Where Have We Been and What Have We Been Up To In 2019?

May reading this report give you courage in these difficult days, a spring in your step, knowing you belong to a wonderful spiritual community and hope for a return in the not-too-distant future to the loving ways we connect as a community.

Bedford United Church – Annual Report 2019

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Rev. Matthew Fillier

Lead Minister

In the past few weeks I have heard many a sermon comparing our COVID-19 world with the famous story of Jesus stilling the storm. It makes sense. Now more than ever we see how we are One and we find ourselves riding this fateful wave in one boat together. If you remember that story, while it gets a little tippy for the disciples, it all comes to a calm in the end. (MK 4:35-41)

But, dear reader, it is anything but calm out there. The storm isn't still. It's just getting started. What will follow is quite possibly a complete reorientation of our life together, not only as a society, but as a church called to live and serve within it. The time for lukewarm half-hearted measures is over. This is the time to listen to the Earth and answer with our whole being.

It may seem like a betrayal of my Newfoundland roots, but I am not drawn to boats on the water. I am compelled to set a different course. As I take in the barometer of last year's considerable pressure, while keeping a weather eye on the year to come – I am drawn to Elijah and the rock (there, now my ancestors can rest easy). If you remember that story (1 Kings 11:11-13), Elijah's life was under threat. He ran to shelter in place. He ran into the wilderness, into a cleft in the rock of a mountain side and he whispered: *who are You?*

The storm came. Winds of fury split the foundations of all he knew. Who are You? *Not the wind*. Then the Earth shook violently. Who are You? *Not the earthquake*. Then came the fire, feverish with hell bent fervor. Who are You? *Not the fire*. Then came a sound unlike any other – a sound that Elijah had never heard: *sheer silence*. It was so holy he covered his face. Seismologists say the face of the earth has ceased from trembling quite as much, because we've all stopped making enough noise to wake the dead.¹ It's a sound not heard in modern human history. Pray on that.

We don't live in a calm world – not yet. The storm will rage on. And we know that *God is not the storm*. God is *in* the world, *of* the world, *for all* the world that lives with its storms. God calls us to have eyes to see that truth, and ears to hear a different sound than panic – the praise of sheer silence.

Elijah asked the only question that really matters: who are You? That is the question we have to ask both of our world, and of God; both of ourselves, and of Christ; both of the church, and of the Spirit. Only by honestly wrestling with that mystery can we let go of a way that was and welcome a way that leads us somewhere new. That question leads us to a different kind of rock. A space cleft from a way that was Spirit opened to a sheer silence, whose answer split the gravestone at the turning point of time.

¹ <https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a32007736/earth-moving-less-covid-19-lockdown-seismologists/>

Our beloved BUC, is at a turning point in time. The reports that follow are filled with dedication, passion, service and faith in co-creating a world of love and justice. The members of our community and the staff team behind these pages have given everything they've got, and what a difference we have made and what an honour it is to serve alongside you. 'Twas ever thus.

But at one time, church was optional. Isolation has taught us *community is not optional*. It is an essential service for the heart, the mind, the body and the soul – even if we must reinvent what it means to live it through all means digital and virtual. Now more than ever before, we need one another as we re-create what it means to be a community of faith together.

Friends, we're not just in the same boat anymore.

We're building a whole new kind of vessel.

Jesus didn't call the disciples to calm the storm.

He calls us to sail through it to seek other seas.

And that's the course I'm committed to.

Are you coming?

#namastayawayfromyou (for now)

M



Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Katie Aven

A year and a half into my call to Bedford United Church, I continue to be amazed by the Holy Spirit that brought me here. The grace and gifts of this community have been a blessing to me as I have found myself calling BUC and its people *home*. I have continued to observe those places in the community that are hungry for growth, places where new opportunities arise almost effortlessly, places of quiet neglect, and ministries that, having faithfully lived their lifespan, are ready to be laid down. In the midst of this, 2019 has given me a chance to

experience the cycle of a full church year: all the Christian seasons, and all the seasons of life that been woven through it: tears and laughter, grief and joy, challenges and gifts, inquiries and epiphanies, and woven throughout, the unwavering presence of the Holy Mystery attending the life of this beloved community.

My role as Minister of Congregational Care has brought me into so many facets of life at Bedford United. With the steady hands of co-coordinators Mary MacDermid (LLM) and Donna Miller (MSW), the Pastoral Care Team continues to provide amazing ministry and continuity of care within our large congregation. This team helps us stay connected and supportive to those who are elderly, who are isolated or ill, and those who simply need to feel a little extra love in the ups and downs of life. The Pastoral Care Team also provides important follow up to bereaved members of our community. Many team members are long-time members of BUC, which gifts us with a broad knowledge of the community members and community history. The Pastoral Care Team also has a group which exclusively visits folk in hospital. After receiving a grant from the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Pastoral Care Team took a two-day training course in Mental Health First Aid, to further our skill set when dealing with mental health and illness in our community, and beyond. Our team meets every 2 months for a time of worship and support, for education, and for updates on community members as needed. At the heart of our ministry is the call to caring for the vulnerable within our faith community. We hope that 2020 will be a year to increase our visibility and accessibility to the community.



BUC once again supported me to provide leadership for the fall women's retreat at the Tatamagouche Centre. This year's retreat was a weekend of intentional unprogrammed time. It was a time to play, to rest and reflect, and to be together in the natural beauty of The Tatamagouche Centre. We played games, walked, canoed, sat around the fire and took the time to *simply be*.

The Emergency Prayer Chain continues to provide a beautiful prayer ministry for those in the community and beyond. This ministry is made possible through the support of Carolyn Crowell and Margaret Archibald.

Bedford United has a unique funeral ministry, able to provide complete death care, funeral services and bereavement care to members and non-members alike. This is a ministry that meets people with compassionate care at time of overwhelming grief, with the flexibility to respond pastorally and liturgically to individual needs. Our ability to rally around those bereaved members of our community makes BUC feel ever more like a family who cares for our

own. Our ability to provide this service to members of the community at large is one way in which we live into the missiology of Jesus Christ, reaching out to the stranger in need.

The funeral ministry depends on the work of those members who volunteer to usher, host visitations, prepare the sanctuary, and coordinate our class-act funeral receptions. Members of the UCW and the funeral reception leads, Ellen Varner and Rena Hill, are particularly key to this on-going ministry. In 2019, I introduced “Small Funerals” to our offering. These services are held in the BUC Porch for families who prefer a smaller, shorter service, equally intimate and sacred, but without ushers, visitation or reception. They require less set-up, and no volunteer services. It is one way in which our funeral ministry is responsive to a variety of needs in our community, without over-taxing our volunteer base.

The Quiet Space, used in the past for the Great Harbour healing ministry, was in need of a standardized policy to ensure the safety of everyone involved in hands-on therapies that happen at BUC. This policy applies to renters as well as those offering therapies as a ministry of the church, and provides clear expectations for providers and recipients of care, as well as legal protection for Bedford United. Part of my continuing education in 2019 was training in *Healing Pathway*, a United Church of Canada healing ministry. This training took me to Prince Edward Island, where I worked with clergy and laity alike in reclaiming the tradition of the laying on of hands and other healing ministries, within a uniquely United Church program, designed and approved by General Council.

Working together with my teammates has been one of my joys of 2019. Rick Gunn and I hosted Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving services at the Bedford Berkeley, with the indispensable assistance of Margaret Embree. Paige Fraser and I have enjoyed multiple occasions of bringing congregational care and family ministries together for shared ministries. And of course, it wouldn't be team ministry without an on-going dialogue with our Lead Minister, Matt Fillier, on all things BUC!



After a long journey away from my former denomination and into the United Church of Canada, I was ordained to ministry on May 26, 2019. This incredibly special and important moment happened as our ministry team led over 1000 clergy and community representatives through three days of worship—with our own Rick Gunn, Charlene Cable-Lloy and Peter Moorhouse on music! What a gift and a blessing!

2019 was also a year of seeking a deeper understanding of my role as Minister of Congregational Care; what this role has been, and the opportunity it holds when held in a responsive and prayerful way within the community. It was a year of getting to know more and more of the amazing people who make up the community of Bedford United. This has

happened through pastoral visits, committee meetings, quiet conversations before and after Sunday worship, and a myriad of other points of contact and connection.

Looking back on my first full calendar year at Bedford United, I am so excited to call this community my home and look forward with hope and inspiration for what lies ahead! My ministry here would not be possible without the support, love, feedback and faith that the community has given me; for which I am deeply thankful!

Children, Youth and Family Ministries Annual Report

Paige Fraser

It is a privilege to serve with the team and community of Bedford United Church. My first year at BUC has been full of learning, connection and inspiration from this community, it is a gift to work with the babies, toddlers, children, youth and families of BUC. They continue to inspire me and fill me with hope for the church and the world. We are truly blessed at Bedford United Church for all that the young people bring to our community. 2019 was a wonderful year for our family ministry unit as we continue to grow and strengthen our faith and our ministries.

Children's Ministry

2019 was a great year for Children's Ministry at BUC, as we continue to see a growth in attendance and registration, thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff! Lauren continues to coordinate Sunday School by finding interactive and engaging ways to teach children about love, service and faith. These interactive lessons, crafts and games are paired with Godly Play, a form of story telling that invites the children to wonder and reflect on their lives and their faith. Our Sunday School children have a passion for the arts and this year they were able to prepare



two skits to add to our worship services, along with our yearly Christmas Pageant. We continue to be a community of faith that prioritizes young people and offers Sunday School programming 52 weeks of the year, including a staffed nursery for little ones to play!

This past summer we ran a Science and Faith Day camp at BUC, where 26 children explored their faith through games, science experiments and worship. Youth volunteered

at camp to help support children on their faith journey. Throughout the past year we also offered PD day camps for school aged children, to give them a place to come, be with friends, learn and play at Bedford United Church.

Lauren continues to coordinate seasonal Sunday School sleepovers which are always a highlight for participants. During our Sunday School sleepovers, we see our church come alive and full with children, laughter and games. We are so grateful for Lauren's commitment to the children of Bedford United Church. Lauren cares deeply for all ages at BUC and continues to support them and help them grow and learn. Lauren always reminds our children that they are loved and cared for here.

Youth Ministry

2019 was a busy and exciting year for youth programming at BUC. Teens United began to meet on Friday night, during our Faith Family Friday program, where youth gather to share a meal with families followed by programming for youth, children and adults. Teens United enjoyed a regular attendance of between 8-10 youth on a weekly basis. Besides check-ins and giggle-fits (Thanks to April...) TU has enjoyed many rewarding activities. Teens United has a passion and interest in outreach, this year TU has baked treats for Multi-Faith Centre at Dalhousie, meals for folks at Hope Cottage and have volunteered at the Beacon House. We've celebrated holiday's with (lots of) food and games, worshipped together, watched thoughtful movies, made crafts, had a couple non-sleepover sleepovers (where we had all the fun of a sleepover but went home to our own beds!) and played an epic escape room! Teens United has also supported children's ministry by volunteering and offering leadership with our summer day camp and PD days at BUC. This past summer many of our youth also participated in Maritime Conference Youth Forum, Intermediates at Conference and Camp Kidston!



In the fall April and Paige hosted a confirmation retreat, the weekend included worship, thoughtful workshops and conversations about who Jesus is, our relationship to God and our commitment to the church. The weekend ended with 5 youth accepting the call to deepen their relationship with God and the church and become confirmed members of our community.

Looking at the year ahead, Teens United is excited to continue to enjoy youth retreats, Maritime Conference Youth Forum, volunteering and weekly gatherings. Some of our youth will also be attending Rendezvous, a United Church of Canada national youth gathering in Calgary this summer.

We are so grateful for April's commitment and vision for youth ministry, as she continues to develop and offer programs that are life giving (and fun!) to the youth of BUC. We also offer

deep gratitude for all the ways that April supports the youth of BUC through on-going pastoral care, check-ins and prayers. Youth programming at BUC continues to be a blessing to our young people and their families, thank you to April!

Family Ministry



It has been a wonderful year in family ministry, connecting with new and familiar families while offering new and well-loved programs. We currently have 62 families involved in our family ministry program. We continue to offer our Faith Family Friday program where children, youth and adults come together to share a meal, connect and participate in programming, such as yoga, hiking, drumming, art and games.

In 2019 we continued to offer well loved family ministry events, including our Easter Party, Year end Picnic, Sunday School Sleepovers and we added new programming including a Live Nativity at Christmas to help us get ready for the Mystery of Christmas, PD Day days for children in school and a summer day camp. This year we also welcomed many new babies and toddlers to our community through the sacrament of baptism.

In 2019 Christian Development Committee obtained \$10500 through grants for an out-door community oven at Bedford United Church. We understand the importance of sharing a meal together and plan to build an outdoor community brick oven to serve the community with fresh bread and wood-fired pizzas. It is our hope that this communal brick oven will offer new outreach programs for our church family while also building community and feeding the physically and spiritually hungry. We hope that this oven will be a community initiative, strengthening relationships with our neighbours and extending our communion table outside of the church building. We are deeply grateful for the support from BUC on this project and want to offer a special thank you to Darrell Johnston as he continues to help us develop an outdoor space where all are truly welcome.

Looking ahead we will continue to offer our Faith Family Friday program, a new Family Spring Retreat, PD Day for children, a summer day camp, along with new ministry for young adults and new parents. We look forward to the installation of our community oven and offering new community and family programs centered around our connection and food.

A big thank you to the parents that supported children, youth and family ministry this year with volunteering, teaching Sunday School, providing meals, treats, drives, clean up, helping with fundraising and so much more!



I am thrilled to be a part of a gifted and faithful Family Ministry team. There are many people who make this ministry happen, including the members of the Christian Development Committee. Their work in supporting Children Ministries, Youth Ministries and Family Ministries has been vital to sustaining this thriving ministry and I value their amazing gifts and deep commitment to serving faithfully. Thank you to Jan Oakey and Jocelyn Tingley for chairing this committee with passion and purpose.

Minister of Music Rick Gunn



2019 is now behind us. As usual at BUC, there was a lot of music found, taught, and offered in worship with the hope that people might feel God's presence and be transformed by the encounter. As I write this, I am on the search for my Supervised Ministry Education internship site which will sadly mark the end of my ministry at BUC. The strong relationships I have with the music volunteers, the congregation, and staff have been crucial in shaping the kind of minister I will be as my journey takes me to unknown places. But this report looks backwards so others might see a way forward as BUC continues to thrive and grow in our little corner of God's vast creation.

Congregational Choir

How does the singing from the pews sound to me up on the chancel? Overall, it sounds engaged, joyful, and trusting. BUC is quite good at embracing new songs and hymns and being open to creative moments like using our hands and bodies during the singing. Using hand gestures invites more of whole selves into experiencing God's presence in worship. From the front I usually see many people finding joy in this technique. I also see some folks choosing not to participate and that is ok too. For some people, using their body in worship in this way is not a place of comfort. I continue to encourage it because it strongly appeals to children and youth (they are usually less inhibited and restrained in their relationship with their bodies which the Spirit loves!). It also appeals to adults who sense that the church has long rejected and shamed the use of bodies in worship and that the body is a holy gift which God longs to use and flow

through. I try not to overdo it and keep that ever-challenging balance of old meets new, of stillness and movement, of change meets tradition.

I continued in 2019 to be diligent about keeping new songs to a minimum. As much as many people love a new sacred song, the Spirit seems to flow most freely when tune and text are very familiar.

Celebration Choir



I am deeply proud of our church choir. In some church circles, people wonder if the traditional church choir is a dying thing. At BUC, we value variety. We have a youth band. We have an adult praise band. And we have a choir that let's the passion and talents of 15-25 people come together to lead the music. The theology of a choir continues to be very important to worship. The congregation faces us and we face them. This inward facing creates a circle, in a way. The congregation sees a mini-congregation of familiar faces in the choir. At its best, this mirroring encourages better community singing than a praise band ever can.

The choir welcomed new members Holly Hagerman (who often brings her infant daughter Elizabeth), Donna Garden, and Nancy Wells. New faces and voices are so healthy for a choir.

ReGenesis



BUC's youth worship band continues to thrive. They lead one Sunday a month. They also continued with their yearly Traveling Ministries Road Trip. 2019 took them to back to Mount Royal UC in Moncton. These trips are paid for in part by fundraising done by the youth and their families (mostly the coffeehouse and a few pre-worship bake sales), the Worship & Music Team, and a generous UCW donation.

Bridgewater UC invited the band back again to lead music on the Sunday they celebrated becoming an Affirming congregation of the UCC. The youth were thrilled and led with joy and high spirits. We stayed for a lunch with the congregation afterwards.

The saddest part of each ReGenesis year is saying goodbye to the youth leaving the band, usually because of high school graduation. 2019 bid thank you and farewell to guitarist and occasional singer Ty Bell-Fraser. He is much missed. We were thrilled that he surprised the band and joined us for leadership on Christmas Eve.

Aidan and Claire Fergusson joined the band and have been wonderful! Claire sings beautifully and has a great voice for solos and has a good ear for harmonies. Aidan is a very gifted

piano player and enjoys singing sometimes as well. They are devoted members and positive spirits in our midst.

I am grateful for the youth and parents who volunteer to bring snack for us to enjoy each Wednesday when we take a rehearsal break. This time allows the group to bond as friends and enjoy a treat.

Easter Cantata Sunday



Commissioned by BUC's Worship & Music Team, I composed "Awaken Us: A Cantata on Jesus' Resurrection" which we debuted in worship the weekend after Easter. The 60-voice choir, rhythm section, and electronic DJ performed the music on a Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning. The DJ and I led a theme time with a theological exploration of dance beats. It was a lot of fun! With the guidance of Dr. Alyda Faber at the Atlantic School of Theology, I researched some of the

many ways Jesus' resurrection is understood. The songs journeyed through some of these theologies, raising some challenges, uncertainties, and possibilities of what it means to proclaim: "He is risen!" The response from those who sang in it and those who heard it was so positive that it will be mounted again for the Sunday after Easter 2020. Thank you, BUC, for giving me the opportunity to use my gift of composition!

Christmas Cantata

The 2019 cantata was "Star: The Divine Process". Of all the cantatas I wrote for Christmas, this is the one I hear "this one is my favourite!" the most often. People have told me they are deeply moved by the theology and the way the message of Christmas is captured in a way that feels relevant to our lives today. High praise indeed!

The 78 singers and band led with unmatched musicality, precision, and passion. I know I say this every year. The collective skills of BUC committed singers naturally grows with more and more experience.

The Worship & Music Team and I both agree that my cantatas have been wonderfully meaningful as we have cycled the four works through 3 times since 2010. 2020 should take a new approach. Commission a new work by a composer? Seek out existing cantatas that suit and challenge this ministry and the community's theology and understanding of Christmas?

Christmas Eve

With the wisdom of the staff and the Worship & Music team, BUC offered only three services in 2019: 4:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. Three services allowed for a much less stressful day for me and music volunteers. The late service had more of a commitment from the choir than 2018 because I really encouraged it. I wonder if that service would be stronger musically with more of a classical instrumental ensemble with 2-4 strong singers in harmony. The 4:00 child-led service was wonderful with Paige Fraser's and Lauren Scott's support. I wish I had provided more musical support to this service. The carol-singing was well led by four youth and myself and Emily Fieldsend's solo added a lovely moment. The Cherub Choir struggled a little which could have been easily remedied with more support from me.

With MUCH love,

Rick Gunn



CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

Baptism of Children

Bedford United Church gives God thanks and praise for the gift of the following who were baptized into our community of the Spirit during 2019:

Norah Ann Cull

Boden Barry Mees

Luke Steven Mercer

Abigail Madeline Susan Mullin

Lucas Gunn

Gwyneth Alice Rose Bailey

Elsie Juliette MacHattie

Amelia Claire Lines

Adults Received into Full Membership

Bedford United Church is delighted to announce that the following adults were received into full membership at Bedford United Church during 2019, and hereby are eligible for both the privileges and responsibilities of full membership.

Ruth Strubank

Gordon McMillan
Lyn McMillan
Bertha Etter
Wayne Fiander
Elizabeth Hines
Corinne Schmid
Irma MacDonald
David MacDonald

Weddings

Congratulations from the congregation of Bedford United Church
Jenna Anne LeBlanc and William Stuart Young

In Memoriam – (Deaths)

The following names are those whose funerals were held at BUC during the past year.

Garfield Woodworth
Edgar L. Sceles
Robert L. Dickson
Gloria Hennigar
Robert Boyd
Chester Guy King
Edith “June” Boswell
Donald Alexander Macdonald
Ralph Greeno Scott
June Penny
Elizabeth “Bessie” Maude Dart

Into God’s keeping we commit our sisters and brothers here departed.

Thank you for sharing your lives with us.



Church Council

Darlene MacDonald

The vitality in our Bedford United Church is always demonstrated in our monthly Council meetings, where it is extremely hard to keep meetings within two hours. There are just so many items to be discussed – and someone has put their time and effort to each item. So, they're far from dull. So many things are going on in this BUC community and your Council acts as your Stewards of Spiritual Vision and Temporal Gifts.

You know, BUC is so very conscious of reaching out and being part of our community at large. Our relationship with our neighbours at Al Rasoul keeps growing stronger and has developed into meetings of understanding which now also includes a Rabbi from a local Synagogue and a First Nations Elder. And there are other endeavours too. This is so exciting; it is our faith in action.

We were all so delighted in May 2019, when Jakar's wife and little girl finally made it to Canada from Turkey to be with him. But as you know, the Middle East still festers. Jakar's uncle, Baran Omar, came to us to seek help to bring his cousin, a young Kurdish woman to Canada. The rules are now different. Peter Moorhouse, who has thoroughly looked into this matter, has us on a United Church of Canada waiting list for 2020 – 2021 that may authorize us to assist him.

Early in 2019, June Boswell came to a Council meeting. She wanted some artworks that had been previously displayed here brought to a new life and she was prepared to support it financially. Well, before the next meeting came up, June had passed away. Darrell Johnston took on the project along with Paige Fraser, our Family Ministry Leader, and Peter Dykhuis, member of our BUC community, to create a beautiful community welcoming space, called "The Crossings" with a grand pizza oven and art display. You'll get to see it all in 2020.

Unfortunately, although we were very keen to transform our kitchen, it became clear that barring some very significant funding from outside our congregation, we had to put these plans on the back burner until these funds can be found.

Here at BUC, we've been going through enormous changes. Our Ministry team has changed and we know that our beloved April Hart who has been so significant to our youth here, and Rick Gunn our talented Minister of Music are looking forward past their graduation to exercise their gifts to the fullest. (Bear in mind, the hymn that we often sing, "Don't be Afraid, My Love is Stronger.") And just last May, Katie Aven was ordained by the United Church of Canada and is now Reverend Katie Aven. Congratulations Katie.

Some of our Formal Volunteer Team Leads who are responsible to Council have moved on from their roles, for various reasons. While we are saddened to see them leave, we wish them

good health and blessings and assured them how valuable they have been and are to this church.

I very proudly and enthusiastically introduce to you our incoming Chair of Council, Peter Moorhouse. Peter has strong organization and leadership skills, is a dedicated volunteer at BUC, is the CEO at the Better Business Bureau and is a talented musician, who you often see playing the drums for our Sunday music. Of course, this means that I will now serve as *Past* Chair of Council.

The time has come to welcome the Team Leads for Council that started their tenure. They are: in Stewardship, Carol McKnight who came to us all the way from New Zealand, and Debbie Pryde as Treasurer. Lidia Thomson assumed the lead for Ministry and Personnel after Debbie Pryde had filled in temporarily (If you want something done, give it to a busy person). and last but in no way least, the Lead for Property and Facilities is Gordon McMillan. Thank you all for stepping up and many thanks to those who are continuing on from 2019 in Council as Leads for their Teams. We welcome back Nic Fieldsend for Communications, Sandra Nimmo our Region Representative to Council, Kim Dompierre, Member at Large, and Tim Rorabeck Member at Large. Council offers our enormous gratitude to Carolyn Crowell, our indomitable Secretary.

Our Nominating team, led by, now, our *past, Past Chair of Council*, Darrell Johnston, have seen to it that we have a full representation at our new United Church of Canada, Region 15, who will partake in the clusters that will engage in various issues for our church.

This church thrives because of your support, in attendance, as volunteers in so many ways, in prayer circles, and by your financial offerings as you are able. You are the church.



Ministry & Personnel Ministry Team

Debbie Pryde and Lidia Thomson

In 2019, the M&P had some ups and downs. The team members at the beginning of the year consisted of Interim Chair Debbie Pryde, Sheryl Read, Cyril Pearce and Peter Davison. We continued to build on the practices we had initiated in 2018 and to document processes to ensure the committee functions effectively to support both ministry and lay personnel. Part way through the year both Sheryl Read and Debbie Pryde had to step down from their position, leaving Cyril and Peter to carry the load. Fortunately, the volunteer fair and nomination team brought forward a number of names. The team currently consists of Lidia Thomson as Team Lead, Cyril Pearce, Peter Davison, Rena Hill and Rita Stevens as Team Co-Lead.

In October the entire team attended a workshop at St John's United, which encompassed the responsibilities of those on the M&P Team. Team members indicated that it was well timed and very helpful.



Our BUC community continues to demonstrate strong leadership, programming and committed staff as well as an active volunteer base. 2019 saw the first-year anniversaries of all our new ministerial team members who began in 2018. We are well on the way to a well-oiled machine.

As a committee, we have engaged with staff to make sure they continue to have appropriate working conditions and that we work effectively to build a strong ministerial and staff team. Our work also focused on updating job descriptions and implementing effective human resource practices.

I want to thank the members of M&P for their commitment to BUC and their passion for our work to ensure we support our staff as they fulfill their important work. I know we will all bring that passion forward as we move through 2020 and will help our staff meet the challenges and excitement to be expected with transition. Our congregation is fortunate to have this dedicated group and we can be confident that together we have the skills and willingness to embrace change and thrive in our shared spiritual journey.

Thank you for your support and encouragement – it is a privilege to serve our BUC community.

Property and Facilities

Darlene MacDonald with Gordon McMillan

Our new lead, Gordon McMillan, for this committee began in August 2019 and has been a real go-getter ever since.

Until August, Reverend Matthew Fillier and I, with help from Brian King, Brian Skelly and Bill Maes managed the matters regarding the physical assets of Bedford United Church.

11 Sullivan's Hill is the yellow house directly behind the BUC back parking lot. It was purchased from an inheritance as an investment for BUC. Because the return on investment has not been as fruitful as we would hope, Council considered whether to sell, change the use or to keep it as a rental property. Our decision was to keep it as a rental property until the housing market improved. While the maintenance projects were mostly in 2019, there may have been some done in late 2018 and early 2020. The house and basement were repaired, cleaned up and painted as needed. To address heating problems, we had the attic and the basement insulated back in 2018, now currently adding to that, the hot air ductwork was cleaned out, a new oil

tank, furnace (2019) and chimney liner (2020) have been installed. We have tenants, but we do want to keep an eye out for a sellers market.

Due to lack of funding, the BUC Kitchen renovation did not materialize in 2019. If we perceive that we might obtain funding in the future, the kitchen renovation may take on a new life.

Our Church once again faced leakage. I truly think that the culprit has been found and the solutions are in place, among which is a heat trace wire installed on the Sanctuary roof and down through repaired downspouts. For general upkeep, old caulking was removed and replaced in 9 upper sanctuary windows, the flashing to a skylight was replaced, and two broken windows were replaced. One heat pump in the porch has had a deep cleaning; all heat pumps



will need to be cleaned thoroughly on a rotating basis. Outdoors, a large decaying tree was removed and branches along the side of Sullivan Hill were cut back. Our new winter maintenance contract is with Tyler's Lawn Care and Snow Removal.

Our rentals are an important source of revenue. In addition to 11 Sullivan's Hill, we currently rent our facilities to "Stagecoach" a private school that teaches dance and acting. Some others include use of the parking lot across the road by "Something Fishy" food truck, Stirlings, Lions Club Christmas tree sales and others.

Worship and Music Ministry Team

Jon Tattrie

The WAM team saw many changes to personnel this year, with chair Barry Cameron leaving and being replaced by Jon Tattrie in September. Paul Read also stepped down as the audio-visual rep. Terry Choyce had to step down due to scheduling conflicts. Monica Geske took over from Liz Meier as scripture reader coordinator while Jean MacLeod, Donna Miller, Ruby Barss Brown, Cheryl Inman, Sylvia Branton and Jill Wilson continued to serve.

The Hymn Sing didn't happen in May 2019, but the team hopes it will happen again. No one is coordinating currently with the presiders, which could lead to some scheduling issues. We hope to find a new lead for the presiders.

We received a donated banner from Alexander Chisholm Guibault and hung it in the back of the sanctuary, after installing special material to protect it from sun.



We managed to get the sanctuary decorated for Christmas thanks to April Hart taking the lead and - eventually - undecorated in January. We do need to find someone willing and able to take on a more active role in keeping the sanctuary space fresh and seasonal.

We sorted out the church Bibles and ensured they are evenly spread through the sanctuary and building. We've also made a point to include the Lord's Prayer - often sung - more often, and especially on communion services.

We changed the Christmas services from four to three and that seemed to work very well for the staff, volunteers, and the wider church community. The services were at 4 pm, 7pm, and 11pm. We plan to hold the latest service at 1030pm next year.

Communications Ministry Team

Nic Fieldsend

From the BUC Constitution...

Our Purpose: In support of BUC's mission to be a vibrant Christian community, the Communications team fosters a strong, informed, and engaged BUC community through encouraging the sharing of stories of progress, outreach, and inclusivity.

Our Principles: **Respect for all**, and for our core beliefs, documents and core identity. | **Inclusivity** in all we do. | **Openness to technology** and social media; but, at the same time, a respect for traditional offline communication methods. | **Teamwork**-based approach, together with other ministry teams, to ensure we are aware of, and share, all the positive stories of BUC.

Members: Nic Fieldsend (Chair); Terry Choyce; Peter MacIntosh; Wayne Putnam; Paul Read; Rebecca Bailey

What do we do?

From writing and editing BUC Buzz, to updating the website and building our strong social media presence, to understanding research trends, to guiding and assisting other committees,

to sharing our voices and images through audio-visual technology, we help tell the stories of BUC.

At-a-glance accomplishments in 2019:

We continued to update and improve our website - with feedback from our congregation. We're pleased to say that several new families have commented that it was the website that drew them to BUC!

We continued to enhance the branded weekly email (big thanks to Jennifer Johnson) that keeps everyone up-to-date with opportunities to be part of BUC life.

We focused on developing the voice of BUC in a time where we see increasing need to be a beacon to attract others to join our inclusive and affirming spiritual journey.

We continued to develop content for BUC Buzz to share stories from our congregation.

Our plans for this coming year include:

We will help shape and build our Digital Ministry, providing deeper connection between our Worship, Communications and Stewardship teams to capture, share and promote how the Spirit moves here at BUC.

We will facilitate conversations to discern the strategic direction for BUC for the next few years.

We will continue to enhance our use of our social media channels to better advertise BUC to potential new members, and to our community.

We will continue to share stories of the myriad ways in which BUC touches our lives - both within our Small Group Ministry teams and in the wider community.

We will support new fundraising initiatives, such as creating an e-commerce website to market and sell copies of Carolyn Crowell's book of poetry "To Touch the Mystery", all proceeds of which will go to BUC.

We'll engage in more conversations with friends in other faith communities and find opportunities to build our presence and recognition as a place for hope and light in troubled times.



Interested in learning more?

Have ideas to share?

Looking for a place to volunteer your time and expertise?

Want to take an active role in supporting communications efforts?

If yes, then we're looking for you!

We are actively seeking new members with experience and a passion for writing, social media, website updates and marketing.

Please contact Nic Fieldsend - nic.fieldsend@gmail.com or 902-456-2107 - or any of the current team members, anytime:

Christian Development Ministry Team

Jan Oakey and Jocelyn Tingley, Co-Chairs

The Christian Development Committee is charged to plan, oversee, and provide resources for all Christian Development Programs at Bedford United Church. This includes programming and support for Children, Youth, Families and Adults.

Committee members at the end of 2019 include:

Jan Oakey (Co-Chair)
Jocelyn Tingley (Co-Chair)
Paige Fraser (Family Ministries Leader – staff position)
Lauren Scott (Children's Ministry Associate)
April Hart (Youth Ministry Associate)
Natalie Moyes
Jeff Tingley
Sandra Winters
Neil Morehouse
Jeff King
Kristin King
Kim Wilson

We welcomed Kim Wilson to the committee in 2019. We have been blessed by her joyful spirit

and her dedication to BUC's Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

During 2019 the committee met on eight occasions. The goal for 2020 is to meet once every other month (off July & August), or more frequent if circumstances require.

Areas of focus in 2019 included:

2019 was a very successful year for the committee. With Paige Fraser's leadership of our Family Ministry, we saw new programs and opportunities introduced as well as new families coming to BUC. We were fortunate to have Lauren Scott continue as coordinator for Sunday School programming and April Hart continue as the coordinator of BUC's Youth programming.

Sunday School for Children – We have beautiful children at BUC! It is such a joy to work with them and to see how their time in Sunday School is helping to shape their faith and their understanding of God. Lauren plans lessons that are engaging and fun and teach the children about God's love in a variety of ways. In 2019, the children performed skits for the congregation on various themes, baked treats for Hope Cottage, completed acts of kindness in memory of our friend Robert Boyd, made cards for First Responders after the Barho family tragedy and so much more. The children are forming life-long friendships and are learning how to care for their BUC and wider community.

We continued to focus on Godly Play this year, a program that is led by Natalie Moyes and Paige Fraser. The Godly Play approach helps children and adults alike to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. In the Fall, the Christian Development Committee supported two people, Jeff King and Carolyn MacDonald, to receive full training to become accredited Godly Play teachers.

Teens United – April meets with the teens during Faith Family Fridays for Teens United and organizes additional gatherings for the youth. They have enjoyed many offsite activities including sleepovers, volunteering and youth retreats. Several youth were able to attend the IAC Youth Forum in the Spring.

Faith Family Fridays – This is a new program created by Paige Fraser and was a highlight for Family programming in 2019. Families gather for a meal and enjoy activities such as Praying in Colour, family yoga, Harvest Night, drum circle, campfire and presentations followed by discussions on various topics. This has been very well received and families look forward to spending this time together.

Other areas of focus during 2019 included:

- Sunday School Registration
- Post High School Bursaries
- Family Easter Party
- Annual Family Picnic
- Live Nativity

- Christmas Pageant
- Sunday School Sleepovers
- Faith Family Fridays
- Vacation Bible school
- Bible Journaling for Adults
- Life Long Learning Support for:
 - IAC Youth Forum
 - 2019 North American Godly Play Conference
- Support for Women's Retreat
- Prayer Bench email retreats:
 - Starlight Stories Advent Retreat
 - Stroll for your Soul Spring Retreat
 - Creation Retreat
 - Lent on a Plate Retreat

We look forward to another great year in 2020!

Sunday School Leaders and Event Volunteers for 2019:

The committee thanks all of our volunteers for their contributions of time, talents and treasures in 2019. The committee offers apologies in advance for any errors or omissions with regards to volunteers this year.

Ema MacLeod, Kayla Wood, Nina Morehouse, Jeff Tingley, Natalie Moyes, Gordon Moyes, David Moyes, Jan and Shawn Oakey, Paula Boyd, Lauren Scott, Jocelyn Tingley, Kim Wilson, Sandra Winters, Jeff and Kristin King, Nic Fieldsend, Neil and Alexandra Morehouse, Carolyn MacDonald, Tammy Humphreys, Grace Lin, Lee-Anne Boulet, Terry Choyce, Peter Moorhouse and Paige Fraser.

Special Thanks to:

- Jennifer Johnson for her continuing support
- Paige Fraser for coordinating Family Events
- Lauren Scott for coordinating Sunday School
- April Hart for coordinating Teens United
- Rick Gunn for writing the Christmas Pageant presented at the 4pm Christmas Eve service
- Natalie Moyes for continuing to be a Godly Play champion at BUC and for introducing new Christian Education opportunities for adults.

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Jennifer Johnson

During the winter, Rev. Matt and others enjoyed an Evening of Understanding including folks from BUC and Al Rasoul. Several gathered together for meaningful questions and answers and enjoyed lovely snacks.

Early in March, Rev. Matt invited our newest BUC people to join him in the evening for a peak at what it means to be a member of BUC.

In April and May, Peter MacIntosh, Carolyn Crowell and Rev. Matt tackled a course prepared by Peter called, "God in the Twenty-First Century". They had a great turnout (20) and many wonderful conversations concerning the contrasting notions of God in our times, with particular emphasis on returning to the Divine after the so-called 'death' of older characterizations of God.

In September, women of the congregation explored the theme "Just Be" at a retreat at the Tatamagouche Centre. This was Katie Aven's second retreat with us and it was wonderful having her lead us in prayer and worship. We were thankful to have the work and creativity of the planning team (Jennifer Johnson, Jocelyn Tingley, Jan Oakey, Rev. Katie Aven and Natalie Moyes) for much of the year. We have already booked the centre for the end of September, so if you've been meaning to attend, please watch for the advertising in late spring, early summer.



In October, BUC hosted a potluck after worship particularly inviting anyone new to the congregation. Some people joined in the fun and it was their first day at BUC! We had a wonderful turn out and we thank Rev. Gloria Churchill for "working the room" to catch everyone's names and emails!

In November, Rev. Matt and Carolyn Crowell held a 3-week class called, "Holy Shift!". The purpose of this class was to introduce folks new to the theology of BUC and the United Church of Canada in general. But the REAL purpose was to speak to the new folks about how BUC can be a big part of spiritual transformation...a Holy Shift.



Holy Shift participants Nov 2015: Mat Whyntott, Brent MacPherson, Charlotte Whyntott, Heather Hennigar, Holly Hagerman, Susan Allen, Gail Moore, Linda Stewart, Suzie McFee, Carol McKnight, Grace Johnston with Rev. Matt Fuller leading.

Also, in November, I would be remiss if I neglected to talk about the publication of Carolyn Crowell's book of Poetry, "To Touch the Mystery: Poetry for the journey of life". Carolyn very generously has donated the proceeds of the sale of her book to Bedford United Church. There are still copies available if you would like to purchase a copy from Carolyn for \$20.

Finally, the first Going Deeper was held on May 20, 2010. For several years this spiritual group met every Thursday, and then it met on the second Thursday of each month. It is an opportunity for people to talk about their spiritual thoughts and experiences in a safe, accepting circle. There is also time for meditation, prayer, and/or contemplation. Guidance is by Terry Choyce. Everyone is welcome.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Contributions from Sandy Porter, Karen Parnell, Bob Marryatt, Ann Strickland, Charlotte Rhodes and Jayne Wark

The BUC Outreach Team is a wonderful dedicated group of volunteers who are interested in exploring and helping to address the root causes of poverty, food and housing insecurity and other injustices present in Bedford, HRM and wider communities. We partner with several established non-profit local community-based organizations providing resources as requested. Please see more detailed reports below.

We would welcome new members who would enjoy participation in regular meetings or individuals who would prefer to focus on specific events or projects of interest.

Monthly and Regular Volunteer Opportunities throughout the year

Bridge the Gap

A collaborative project between and among religious and not-for-profit service agencies in the Bedford area. Outreach continues to have representation in this broader community group and continues to be informed of and participate in developments on Food Security and Affordable Housing in particular.

Beacon House

Charlotte Rhodes is our Outreach representative for Beacon House and her detailed report is available separately.

Soup and Chili fundraiser March 31 (Karen Parnell)

The Outreach team prepared and sold both Soup and Chili to raise funds in the amount of \$676 for the Emergency Support Fund which is distributed by administrative team as needs arise in

both BU, and wider community. In order to reduce negative environmental impact, soup and chili was distributed in reusable glass mason jars which will be washed and sterilized for use again in 2020.

Hope Cottage (Bob Marryatt)

Hope Cottage serves approximately 70,000 meals annually. Both lunch and supper are provided on a weekly basis Monday to Friday. BUC is one of the many metro churches supporting this community outreach. We provide, on a monthly basis, 10 casseroles plus 3-6 dozen biscuits. The management of this BUC outreach project continues to be under the very capable management of Roddy Macdonald. Our deliveries are made the third Tuesday of each month by Bob & Bernice Marryatt. Outreach extends their deep appreciation to all involved.

Advent Outreach Activities

Phoenix Stockings Nov 17 to Dec 10 (Karen Parnell)

One hundred and thirty-two stockings were hung around the sanctuary for congregation to select and fill for Phoenix youth. The filled stockings are handed out to every Phoenix youth at the Gala Christmas event in December. It is a very special event and the stockings mean way more to them than just the amazing contents. It is a very special part of their Christmas where they feel the love of community. The response from both Cantata choir and BUC was awe-inspiring. Thank-you, everyone, for your overwhelming generosity in lovingly filling stockings for youth of Phoenix. Namaste!

Brunswick Street Mission (Bob Marryatt)

Brunswick Street Mission has operated a clothing bank for more than 50 years. The volunteer operated clothing bank is open Mondays and each year used by more than 3,000 individuals for both personal and family necessities. All the coats, jackets and boots donated by the BUC congregation are given away free to those in need. Your donation filled 8 large storage boxes.

Prior to her recent passing, June Boswell, had been the driving force behind this worthwhile annual appeal.

Advent Gift Sunday (Bob Marryatt/Ann Strickland)

This year we did not follow the traditional Advent Gift pattern of requesting the congregation to donate toys, dolls, and games destined for the Sackville Heights Community Centre. Children up to the age of 12 from needy families which have been vetted by Feed Nova Scotia benefit from our donations.

Sackville Heights Community Centre had previously reported to Outreach that, while they had an abundance of toys in 2018, the Centre had been forced to purchase toques, hats, scarves and mittens. Learning this, your Outreach team amended our Advent appeal to highlight this requirement with the congregation coming through big time!

2019 was the first year that Welcome Housing & Support Services, a non-profit, charitable organization, was included in BUC's Advent appeal. Welcome Housing provides long term accommodation, secure housing, and support to low income, single individuals. The two boxes of new household goods donated by BUC members were greatly appreciated.

Phoenix Holiday Luncheon Dec 3rd (Karen Parnell)

Members of Outreach and wider BUC community volunteered to be table hosts at the Holiday luncheon both in 2018 and 2019. The luncheon, the largest fundraiser of the year for Phoenix, is a festive occasion with over 1000 attendees who are served a 3 course meal, learn more about Phoenix and are entertained with live performances. Support is generated for the wide variety of programs available to Phoenix youth in metro with raffles, auctions and sponsorship. Bedford United Church was recognized from centre stage as an ongoing sponsor of Phoenix!!

Emergency Support Fund

The Emergency Support Fund supports individuals and families with a one-time gift of up to \$300. as discerned by clergy. This fund is available as required to BUC and those in the broader community struggling with food and shelter insecurities. The fund is maintained throughout the year by the Outreach Team with Chili and Soup take out sales, Just Us coffee sales (discontinued this year) and other fundraisers and special events.

- Gift Cards:
14 supports given
11 one-time
3 repeats
Total value of cards dispersed: \$190
- One special gift of \$100 in cards after the hurricane...all food spoiled in fridge/freezer
- Assisted one individual to pay part of rent in conjunction with another church on Bedford Hwy. A chq was made out for \$150 to the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority.
- The last of the \$25 Loblaws gift cards, donated by several members of the BUC congregation, was given out in December. Thank you to all who generously gave away your "apology card" from Loblaws (for over-charging us on bread!).

We are very appreciative of all the heartfelt and generous support we receive from BUC in so many forms; donations to the ESF fund and support for our fundraisers, gifts for Advent Gift Sunday, donations of winter clothing for Brunswick Street, Phoenix stockings, Beacon House food offerings, Hope Cottage meals and all the other ways BUC expresses caring towards those in need. Thank you so much!

Beacon House Interfaith Society

Charlotte Rhodes, BUC Rep

Beacon House continues to be successfully guided by the volunteer Board of Directors (comprised of a representative from each of 17 local churches) and the management team of Rod Rowlands and Anne Marie Kelly. Unfortunately we lost our Ops Manager Retail Paula Beck at the beginning of September and wish her all the best in her new endeavors. In the near future we will be looking for another individual to join the team.

Some Beacon House 2019 Facts–Did you know?

- There are 150+ dedicated volunteers that contribute to making Beacon House possible. We could not do what we do without them!
- Beacon House has been helping families and individuals who are facing financial hardship since 1985. **Celebrating 35 years of service to the community.**
- It is operated as a registered charity, Beacon House Interfaith Society, a collaboration of local churches, and is an agency member of Feed Nova Scotia.
- It serves the communities of Lower Sackville, Fall River, Bedford, Hammonds Plains and surrounding areas.
- It is the only Food Bank in HRM that is open 5 days per week.
- Beacon House provides food and hygiene products to an average of 2500 individuals per month. Clients can use the food bank once per month and receive a 5-6 day supply of food, based on family size.
- It partners with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to deliver food orders to those who are unable to come to the food bank due to health or transportation issues. This amounts to 300+ orders per year.
- Additional programs offered include: Back to School supplies, Christmas Hamper program, winter coat program, and vouchers (once every 3 months) for clothing, shoes, boots and household items.
- Clothing and household donations from the community go into the adjacent **Retail Store that is open to the public**. And because Beacon House is a registered charity, there is no sales tax on items.
- Lists of items that CAN or CANNOT be accepted are posted on the Donate tab of the Beacon House website. PLEASE do not donate items that you would not pass on to a friend or relative to wear or use.
- Donations that are unacceptable or beyond their useful life and require disposal incur a cost of \$23,000+ annually to Beacon House.
- Some of this cost has been diverted through our new program “Wipe Away Hunger”. Worn, soiled or unusable cotton is cut into rags. This program, now in its third year, has generated \$31,000 in new funds and diverted approximately 32 tons of textiles from going to the landfill.

- Beacon House is not funded by any government sources and has sustained its operations through the sale of donated items in its Retail Store, adjacent to the food bank, as well as donations from local churches, community groups, school groups and partnered local corporations in food rescue projects, and by private individuals who by their caring generosity help us to maintain our mission.

Beacon House would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of BUC for your continued support whether through donating to the monthly Red Wagon appeal following the “Top Ten List” of food items; donating to the Christmas Hamper appeal; or through your individual donations of gently used clothing and small household items, cash, or school supplies.

Also a special thank you to my roster of 50+ volunteers, who come out to **BUC Volunteer Saturdays** for a couple of hours, 3-4 times per year. Volunteers are always needed!! Whether for those Saturdays or individually on other days during the week. Consider giving of your time if you have some!! We are -

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

If you wish to learn more about volunteering or generally about Beacon House please visit the Beacon House Website or Facebook page. Or contact Charlotte Rhodes at charhodes@yahoo.com with any questions.



Welcoming Team

Gloria and Len Churchill

The Welcoming Team continues to work on your behalf with three people greeting at the doors each Sunday and on special services such as Easter, Christmas Eve, and Cantata evening. We especially are on the lookout for newcomers and make an effort to make them feel welcome and oriented to our faith community and its building.

Following the service, we mingle at Coffee time in the porch and clean up when everyone leaves.

We also have two dedicated members who look after replenishing the pew cards and pencils on a regular basis.

This year we held two luncheons for newcomers, one in the spring at the home of Peter and Joan Christie which wasn't well attended so a decision was made to hold another in the fall at the church where there was not so much planning as we had a soup lunch and it was announced in church for a couple of Sundays. We had a successful turnout with most of the welcoming team hosting and about 50 or 60 in attendance. It was decided we will continue that practice this year.

Most of our communication is done through email and the schedule is posted for the whole year with members being responsible to find replacements by changing with another member if they can't be available. This practice has worked well.

We also set up a table at the Volunteer Fair and recruited several new members including a few young families for which we are very grateful. We have 62 people on our membership and by all accounts they are doing a good job of making people feel welcome and we thank them so much for their dedication to this important ministry.

Inclusivity Ministry Team

April E. Hart

The Inclusivity Team is experiencing a phase of rebuilding. Several of our former members have relocated or found themselves committed to other projects, and, despite electing a new Chair last year, we found ourselves having somewhat lost our momentum over the past year or so. This sort of ebb and flow on committees is natural – the ebb in no way indicating a lack of interest or care for the work of this committee within the larger congregation.

The team attempted to meet on several occasions but was ultimately unable to pin down a date that was suitable for a critical mass of committee members, and so Inclusivity did not meet officially during the past church year.

Some of our routine work did, however, continue to get done, largely thanks to the consistent dedication of Carolyn Crowell, Secretary of the team. We continue to pay our dues, maintaining our membership with Affirm United. In July, we hosted a service celebrating Inclusivity Sunday, during which we participated in a tactile prayer together – praying as we passed rainbow-colored yarn through the fingers of each person in the congregation; Cathy Lea took that yarn home and created from it a beautiful knit tapestry that will form the basis of a prayer-supplies basket containing various objects for centering and prayer that will be available to all committees when they meet.

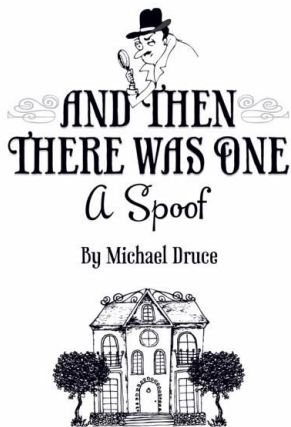


We also promoted participation in the Halifax Pride Parade, served some sweet desserts after church one Sunday as a way of marking PIE Day, and attended a service at Dalhousie University to celebrate their Multifaith Center becoming an Affirming Ministry.

BUC maintains a table in the church foyer which publicly advertises our stand as an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada and offers resources to those interested in knowing more about being Affirming, and about Inclusivity in general. We are always aware that our mandate to encourage inclusivity in the church, and in our community, is intended to focus not only on members of the Rainbow community, but also on the needs and concerns of any folks who could be made to feel more welcome and able to participate fully in our community. We encourage folks to bring related concerns to us any time.

Finally, the team was sad to say goodbye to former members Linda Wilke and Irvin Nicholson; we wish them all the best on their future adventures.

Dinner Theatre Small Group Kim Dompierre



Our 2019 play was And Then There Was One - A Spoof, by Michael Druce. We had a cast of 22 who rehearsed with me for 8 weeks to become performance-ready while we had a lot of fun in doing so. The number of interested BUC actors is growing every time with a new cast each year. However, it takes more than actors to see this fundraiser become a reality. Others who were involved included 4 stage crew, 24 kitchen helpers, 32 bakers, a chef and 4 prep cooks, an audience of 131 for a total of 219 creative, talented, dedicated individuals and guests; all of whom made this project a success and added approximately \$5000 to the church budget.

Each year we start in September with a script reading and casting. Most who join us have started with no experience so if you're interested in joining us please watch our bulletin, website, email for info. The dinner theatre is usually preformed the first weekend of November. Hope to see some new faces this fall!

BUC Gardeners Small Group

Nancy Jennings

The purpose of the BUC Gardening Group is to keep the gardens of the church looking attractive. Although we are a small group, we are dedicated to making improvements to the flower beds around the church.

We meet several times in the spring to get things rolling and again in the fall to tidy up. Throughout the summer some much appreciated volunteers try to keep ahead of the weeds! Last spring, we had a plant sale of hostas and lilies with funds going toward needed gardening supplies.

Our latest project was building a new flower bed by the Sullivan Hill entrance. A major debt of gratitude goes to Bob Maryott who singlehandedly removed a huge unsightly juniper. That allowed us to get started on a butterfly and bee garden which we hope will thrive in the spring to attract pollinators.

Thanks to all the helping gardening hands who have worked faithfully to maintain our BUC flowers.



Broadview Magazine Subscriptions & Small Group

Wayne Putnam and Elaine Loney

This past year ushered in a remarkable change to the UC Observer. Founded 190 years ago, it is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America. It was renamed “Broadview” with more pages per issue and an attractive new layout. It continues to publish articles on spirituality, ethical living, and social justice from a progressive Christian perspective.

As with most paper media these days, the subscription numbers are slowly dropping. Our most recent campaign resulted in 40 subscriptions for the coming year. If anyone wishes to consider a subscription, please ask me for a complementary copy, or check online at Broadview.org.

The Broadview Discussion Group is a small group ministry that meets from 10am-11am on the 4th Monday morning of the month from September to May, to discuss the latest issue of Broadview (formerly the United Church Observer). Members meet in a spirit of learning, support and openness, to reflect on the spiritual, justice and ethical living issues that face people today. Broadview challenges us to expand our point of view. To get a better idea of the

breadth of issues covered by Broadview, visit the website <https://broadview.org> or pick up previous issues found at the back of the Sanctuary. While the group is a good way to make the most of your subscription, much of the content discussed is found online. Co-facilitated by Elaine Loney and Carolyn Crowell. New members are always welcome—contact the church office.

Men's Group Len Churchill

The Men's Group welcomed a few new members in 2019 and membership now stands at 41. The Group meets the last Saturday of each month for a time of food, fun and fellowship for breakfast at Jim's Restaurant on the Bedford Highway. This year we took in a Mooseheads Hockey Game which was hosted by Rockingham United; organized and worked the Spaghetti Men's Night fund raiser and collected money through the Loose Change Cans fund raiser. There was a Golf Tournament between Bedford United and Rockingham United, a pool night at Brewsters in Bedford, prep and serving of two breakfasts at Brunswick Street Mission. We invited members from Al Rasoul Islamic Society to attend these breakfasts for observation purposes for training to do their own breakfasts there in 2020. From the groups' fund raisers we transferred \$ 5,000.00 to the BUC coffers, assisted financially with the cost of a wheelchair accessible vehicle for a member of our congregation, supported financially our Syrian Family to rebuild their barbershop, covered the cost to send a kid to Camp Kidston, paid for one of our youth to attend a workshop at the Tatamagouche Centre and purchased a new Coffee Urn for the Brunswick Street Mission Kitchen.

Mission and Service Carolyn Crowell (Congregational Enthusiast)

The Mission and Service Fund supports the work of the United Church of Canada outside of BUC. It contributes to a wide variety of projects both in Canada and around the world. It supports the training of ordered ministers. It funds our partner churches outside of Canada. Our own Catherine Christie has served as overseas personnel in South Korea. Our youth have attended programs such as Rendezvous and the GO project. Many BUC people attend the Tatamagouche Centre. The Fund supports congregations who cannot support themselves in

times of new growth or 'dying'. It supports Outreach projects both here in Halifax and elsewhere.

Under the new format of the United Church, the M&S Fund no longer supports church meetings. All its monies now support the type of work outlined above.

The booklet ***Gifts with Vision*** offers us an opportunity to choose certain projects to support. This is especially fun to do with children or grandchildren at Christmas.

I continue to put notes about the various projects supported by the M&S Fund in our bulletin inserts. I serve on the Stewardship Ministry Team. We here at BUC have been given so much, we must share with others. The M&S Fund does this for and with us. Please give generously all year round.

BUC Library
Jennifer Johnson (for Jean Salisbury)

The BUC staff team, in cooperation with Jean Salisbury, decided to downsize the library housed on the 3rd floor of the church. Jean carefully determined the books for keeping and recycling. Those we are keeping are going to migrate to the shelves in the porch, with the possibility of adding another shelving unit. Stay tuned for a book give away in 2020. We will let you know when the books from the third floor are available.

(N.B. The BUC community was deeply saddened by Jean Salisbury's unexpected death in February 2020.)

Scouting Programs
Bedford United Church
Heather Carlin



It starts with Scouts.

Bedford United Church co-sponsors the 1st Bedford Scouting Group under Charter #219, issued annually by Scouts Canada since 1919. Sponsorship is shared with All Saints Anglican Church. Our group is pleased to report that "2019" marks 100 years of Scouting in Bedford.

Our Scouting program is non-denominational and open to both genders. We offer many outdoor learning opportunities for growth and personal development. Meetings (Beavers,

Cubs, and Scouts) are held at Bedford United on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The Venturers meet on Tuesday evenings at All Saints Anglican.

All sponsors of Scouting Groups in Canada, support the Mission of Scouts Canada, which is “to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Laws to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals, and to play a constructive role in our society.”

This past Scouting year, (September 2018–August 2019), the 1st Bedford Group registered 64 youth and 22 adults for program delivery and administrative support volunteers, for a total of 84 participants. There were 15 Beaver Scouts; 21 Cub Scouts; 14 Troop Scouts, and 14 Venturer Company Scouts.

Each of the sections had a busy year. Some of the highlights during the year include: **Beaver Scouts**, (ages 5-7): building and racing Beaver Buggies; going on nature hikes; and attending a camp. **Cub Scouts**, (ages 8-11): building and racing Kub Kars; hiking, and learning camping and safety skills. **Troop Scouts**, (ages 12-15): training in camping skills; attending Fantasy Camp; building and racing Scout trucks; and going to ONTREE Adventure Park. **Venturer Company Scouts** (ages 15-17) explored their potential as leaders-planning, and assisting others in our community. The Venturer Scouts worked on their Duke of Edinburg requirements and participated in an overnight backcountry hike at Fundy National Park in June, completing the Goose River Trail. This trail was a 23 km (return) hike and this particular trail connects to the Fundy Footpath.

We offer our sincere thanks to Bedford United Church for their sponsorship of the 1st Bedford Scouting Group and the use of church meeting room that are used to encourage development of today’s youth, who are tomorrow’s leaders.





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Presented at the

Bedford United UCW Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 19th, 2020

UCW Team Lead Annual Report 2019

The United Church Women of Bedford United Church had another busy year, with three units, Fellowship, Fireside, and Friendship taking part in various activities, both individually and together in order to support their numerous interests and outreach missions. Margaret Embree also continued to coordinate gatherings at the Berkeley where worship, communion, music and fellowship were shared.

This is the seventh year that the BUC UCW Units have been overseen by the Leadership Team model. Each year the Team Lead rotates and works along side 6 other members from the 3 units. The Team consists of the Team Lead, 3 Unit Reps, a Presbyterial Rep, a Social Team Rep, and a Treasurer.

The 2019 members being	Team Lead	Debbie Pryde	
	Unit Reps	Sheryl Read	Fellowship
		Jill Wilson	Fireside
		Lee-Anne Boulet	Fellowship
	Treasurer	Sylvia Knox	
	Social	Ellen Varner	
	Presbyterial	Rena Hill	

Thank you very much for all of your hard work this year ladies.

The women of BUC are always welcome to join any of the units at any time during the year. Contact information is found on the bulletin board in the hall. Twice a year, May and December, all ladies of the congregation are invited to a worship service and potluck dinner. This is always a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. Although the December evening is always booked with a snow-day alternative, this year the weather didn't cooperate and it had to be cancelled outright. The offering from the May evening was donated to Camp Kidston while a donation was made to Brunswick Street Mission by the Lead Team in lieu of collection that would have been collected from the December event.

Congratulations go out to Carol Walker, Linda Inglis, Wendy Levo and Bev Deelstra who received their UCW Lifetime membership pins at the May potluck. This honour is given to members who have contributed significantly to UCW, as well as the whole church community.

The Halifax Presbyterial UCW annual meeting was hosted by BUC in February, with the Memorial Service being presented by members of Cole Harbour United. The event was a great success and enjoyed by a good number of UCW members. World Day of Prayer service in Bedford was the 1st of March at All Saints Anglican Church and UCW members helped serve tea and oatcakes at Scott

Manor House for a week at the end of July. Then in September members set up a display at the BUC Volunteer Fair with a display showing what we do and how we do it.

October 20th saw the UCW units look after the Sunday Service. From start to finish (with the help of the ministerial staff for the children's time and Rick and choir for music) unit members ran the service. A lovely job was done and numerous compliments were received.

December again found UCW members, along with other friends, fill numerous cookie tins to be distributed to BUC shut-ins and others in need of comfort by our wonderful Pastoral Care team. Along with the cookies, lovely poinsettias were included with the visits. As noted last year, this project has been going on in excess of 10 years.

Work is still underway with plans to upgrade the kitchen. A room that is used by almost every group at BUC it is one special place for UCW. A place where the ladies work together, enjoy fellowship with great meals whether eaten by others or enjoyed themselves, a place where fundraising is planned and executed. This year UCW's contribution to these renovation plans amounted to \$3,415.

There are numerous individuals who help in very many different ways through out the year for which we owe our thanks. We would however like to say a special thank you to Jennifer Johnson, Brian Skelly and the men of the Men's Group. UCW could not do what we do without you doing what you do.

Special thanks to the members of the Leadership Team who have been very supportive. All UCW members share a wonderful camaraderie and are amazing friends in good times and bad.

All the best to the new Team Lead for 2020, Jill Wilson, and the Leadership Team as you continue the wonderful work of the BUC UCW.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Pryde, Team Lead 2019

UCW FINANCIAL REPORT – 2019

BALANCE FORWARDED JANUARY 1, 2019 1,519.79

REVENUE IN

Funeral Receptions (9)	4,300.00	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	42.25	
Presbyterial AGM Luncheon	470.00	
Spring Pot Luck	189.65	
Fireside Kitchen Renovation Fund	500.00	
Friendship Kitchen Renovation Fund	500.00	
Fellowship Kitchen Renovation Fund	1,915.00	
UCW Units re Mission & Service	3,300.00	
Total		11,216.90

EXPENDITURES

Social Committee	600.00	
Presbyterial Dues	308.00	
Resource Center	70.00	
Camp kidston	1,030.00	
ReGenesis Road Trip	300.00	
M&S Annual Payment	4,400.00	
Memorial – Gloria Hennigar	25.00	
Memorial – Kate McCracken	25.00	
Natalie Moyes travel to NL	500.00	
Barry Cameron Farewell Cake	59.99	
UCW Cake	59.99	
BUC Bulletins – UCW Sunday	40.00	
Brunswick Street Mission	250.00	
Poinsettias/Cards	52.88	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	42.25	
BUC – Kitchen Renovation Fund	3,415.00	
Scotia Bank service fees	36.45	
Total		11,214.56

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

1,522.13

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Knox, Treasurer

Presbyterial Report 2019

Purpose of Presbyterial United Church Women: To Unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to support and strengthen the work of the United Church Women in the local congregations of the presbytery by providing opportunities for spiritual growth, Christian fellowship and leadership development. To function with flexibility to meet the needs of its constituency and, in cooperation with presbytery, to develop whatever new forms as they may be required.

As well as the Annual Meeting of Halifax Presbyterial United Church Women, three executive meetings were held.

At the AGM it was noted that beginning in 2020 the spring rally would be eliminated with the fall rally remaining.

The UCW project Women for Change Zambia was noted and groups were encouraged to follow up on this.

Following the regular meeting, the new executive was installed, the only change being Audrey Matheson as incoming president.

At our January Executive meeting, plans were finalized for our AGM. The National UCW Project was discussed as well as the future of UCW now that there is a new format with the UCC. It has been decided that Maritime Conference United Church Women will keep the name and remain the same for a two-year period.

April meeting was held at Woodlawn United Church. Joanne Perry is the new editor of our Presbyterial Newsletter and it was agreed that the newsletter would be circulated electronically once a year. Plans for the spring rally were discussed.

September meeting was held at St. Paul's Church, Spryfield. It was noted that due to ageing members and no new members joining that several UCW Units have chosen to disband. The latest being Hope United in Halifax. This information was received with regret. Ruth Kennedy, Maritime Conference UCW President will be providing information around disbanding of a UCW group. A letter was also received from Tatamagouche Centre asking for assistance to purchase items. A copy of this letter was sent to UCW Presidents for discussion within UCW groups.

Plans were finalized for the fall rally to be held at Knox United.

The Biennial Rally will be held April 24 - 26, 2020 at St. Paul's United Church in Riverview, N.B. Information to follow.

The National 60th Anniversary Conference will be held July 11 - 15, 2022 at the Membertou Centre in Sydney, N.S, Plans are underway and our President Audrey Matheson and Sandra Carr from St. John's United in Fall River are on the planning committee and will keep us up to date.

Thank you for allowing me to be Bedford UCW representative on Halifax Presbyterial.

Respectfully submitted,
Rena Hill

Social Committee Year End Report 2019

The Social Committee had another active year. We provided a reception of sandwiches, sweets, tea and coffee for 9 funerals.

Jan.7 th	W.H. Gar Woodworth	May 28 th	June Boswell
Feb. 8 th	Robert Dickson	Sept.17 th	Donald Macdonald
March 25 th	Gloria Hennigar	Oct. 11 th	Ralph Scott
April 2 nd	Robert Boyd	Dec.18 th	Elizabeth "Bessie" Dart
April 16 th	Chester King		

Other Event:

On Saturday, Feb.23rd we provided lunch consisting of soup, biscuit, dessert, tea or coffee to the Halifax Presbyterial United Church Woman's 57th Annual General Meeting. The cost was \$10.00 per person.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Varner

UCW MEETINGS AT THE BERKELEY 2019

During 2019 three meetings were held at the Berkeley. At the time of writing there are fifteen BUC residents we keep in touch with. There are four couples included in this number.

We met with these residents in April, October and December. Communion was celebrated in April (Easter) and October (Thanksgiving). Members of the Pastoral Care Committee and UCW members often joined the residents on these occasions.



In December, Rev. Katie Aven, Rick Gunn and members of the BUC choir joined the residents for a carol sing and worship service. This has become an annual event and is well received by all the residents. Cookies and other goodies were supplied by choir members for this event and tea provided by the Berkeley.



In order to make our gatherings at the Berkeley such a success we must thank Rev. Katie Aven for her inspiring and meaningful services, Rick Gunn for his music, Ruby Barss Brown for setting up the communion, Kay Cantwell for supplying sweets and last but not least members of the Berkeley staff who are so helpful.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Embree

Fellowship UCW Unit Annual Report 2019

Fellowship Unit was organized in the spring of 1958 and continues to provide fellowship and opportunities of service for women of the congregation.

The year was very busy as we participated in our own Unit activities as well as working on joint projects with Fireside and Friendship Units. Meetings are held in the Parlour the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm except January, February and March when meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. Each year we have two special social gatherings. The first is in January when we welcome in the New Year with horns, hats and a yummy potluck lunch. The second is in June when we go out to a local restaurant for a meal. This year Katie and Paige joined us for dinner at Jim's Family Restaurant where we shared stories and our plans for the summer months.

As the Unit welcomed new member Gail Moore, we were saddened by the loss of member Kate McCracken. We have 21 active members and would give a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join us. Three of our members were pleasantly surprised when they received Life Memberships. The pins and certificates were presented at our May worship service to Linda Inglis, Bev Deelstra and Wendy Levo, who, received by transfer the Life Membership pin of the late Ruby Densmore.



We held three fundraising events. Two of these events occurred within our membership. The first was a Book and Bake Sale, held in March, with the proceeds going to the kitchen renovation fund. The second was a Bring & Buy Auction. Always a fun way to start off our September meeting. December we hosted our annual Christmas Luncheon & Bake Sale, a wonderful start to the festive season for all who attend. The latter event provides an opportunity for members of the congregation to be involved either by baking or attending the luncheon. It is through the support and caring of the BUC community, this function is always a huge success. It is also a time for us to work alongside Fireside and Friendship Units who set up tables of items for sale.



Through our fundraising efforts, we were able to support BUC in many different ways. They include the following - Camp Kidston sponsorship program, M & S Fund, Kitchen Renovation Fund, memorial donations in memory of loved ones, a



Singing Bowl for Godly Play, assistance to a member of BUC to attend a Godly Play workshop in Newfoundland, donating two baskets of homemade goodies for the Spaghetti Men's Silent Auction as well as two staff honorariums. We also purchased 100 place settings of cutlery for the kitchen, memorial money donated in memory of the late Barb Dodsworth. A plaque has been placed in the kitchen to acknowledge this donation.

Outreach work plays an important role in Fellowship's yearly planning. Over the past 12 months we presented a cheque to Ron Rowlands, CEO of Beacon House, following a presentation to our group. We made monthly donations of personal care items to Coverdale to support women and girls experiencing the Justice system. With the help of the congregation, we were able to provide gently used/new purses, containing travel size toiletries, female hygiene products, bus tickets and coffee cards to Bryony House. Phoenix House issued a cry for donations of towels, socks and underwear and we helped fill this need. We donated funds to the Tatamagouche Centre to assist with refurbishing costs. At Christmas we made a donation to Gifts with Vision to aid in building a well.

When needed, our members assisted with funerals and catered functions. We provided maple syrup for Christmas hampers, worked at Scott Manor House by either baking oatcakes or serving tea, filled Phoenix House socks, baked cookies and helped fill Friendship's Christmas Cookie Tins. We participated in World Day of Prayer, the BUC worship service honouring UCW, Friendship's Game & Dessert event, Fireside's Pancake Supper as well as Presbyterian rallies.

I appreciate the many happy hours I spent with the wonderful ladies of Fellowship. I have been personally enriched by 'touching shoulders' with each one of them as we have worked and played together. I am honoured to represent Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Morrison, President

Fellowship Financial Report 2019

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Cash on hand January 1	\$3,177.63		
<u>2019 Revenue</u>		<u>2019 Expenses</u>	
Collection	\$316.15	M&S	\$1,100.00
Bring & Buy	\$301.00	Bedford United Church	\$1,915.00
Book & Bake Sale	\$365.00	Honorariums	\$100.00
Bake Sale	\$1,384.95	Camp Kidston	\$340.00
Christmas Luncheon	\$1,447.90	Gifts With Vision	\$100.00
Annual Unit	\$256.30	Memorial Donations	\$75.00
Fundraiser Jewelry	\$150.95	Life Memberships	\$160.00
Donation	\$500.00	Godly Play	\$425.00
		Shining Lights Choir	\$256.30
		Tamagouche Centre	\$100.00
		Cutlery	\$499.00
		Beacon House	\$100.00
		Luncheon Expenses	\$336.41
		Miscellaneous	\$87.64
<u>Total 2019 Revenue</u>	\$4,722.25	<u>Total 2019 Expenses</u>	\$5,594.35
<u>Year End Revenue</u>	\$7,899.88		
Closing Balance 2019	\$2,305.53		

Fireside UCW Unit Annual Report 2019

The Fireside Unit meets on the third Monday of each month in the BUC parlour, except for July and August. We have twenty-one members. The members also get together on Wednesdays at 10:30am for coffee. We enjoyed a closing potluck in June at Joan Christie's boathouse, a Christmas potluck at the home of Isobel Fleming and a coffee party hosted by Chris and Drew Stewart in December.



In June we had a celebration to recognize Fireside's 50 years of fellowship and service to the community and to honor three original members – Joan Christie, Ruth Jay and Joan MacDonald who are still active members. It was a fun-filled afternoon of sharing pictures and memories, enjoying some good food and musical entertainment provided by Terry Miller, a former fireside member and Gerry Fitzgerald.



We were very proud to present Carol Walker with a UCW Life Membership. Carol has been a dedicated member for 22 years including serving as vice-president for two years and president for four. She is very deserving of this award, contributing many volunteer hours to our projects.

Fundraising continues to include our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, our unit food auction in May and a homemade candy sale at the December Fellowship Luncheon. The monies raised were used to support Mission and Service, Camp Kidston and donations to the BUC kitchen renovation fund and to Ronald McDonald House.

Along with the other UCW units, Fireside provided food and support throughout the year including, the BUC Funeral and Social Ministry, the UCW Presbyterian AGM, cookies for shut-ins and others.

Once again, the Fireside Program Committee organized several programs for us. Members enjoyed informative presentations on age appropriate skin care and cannabis, interesting conversations with guest speakers, a thought-provoking discussion on the Mission Study “Racial Injustice” and social time.



Fireside Unit UCW – 2019 Financial Report

Opening Balance January 1, 2019		\$1,789.19
Income		
Pancake Supper	\$1,122.00	
Offerings	486.50	
Food Auction	117.00	
Donation	100.00	
Candy Sale	357.50	
Total Income		\$2,183.00
Expenses		
M & S	\$1,100.00	
BUC Donation (Kitchen)	500.00	
Camp Kidston	690.00	
Donation (Ronald MacDonald House)	100.00	
Gifts & Flowers	171.61	
Life Membership	60.00	
Bank Fees	23.40	
Total Expenses		\$2,645.01
Closing Balance December 31, 2019		\$1,327.18

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Stevens, President

Friendship Unit UCW Report 2019

We meet every first and third Monday of the month at 1pm in the church parlour. We welcome new members to our group. In May we went to our closing luncheon at Inn on the Lake. In December we had our Christmas Social at noon at Millstone Pub on Larry Martin Dr. Bedford. We always have a close bond with one another, like sisters in our group, fellowship and laughs.

As a group we participated in various UCW activities such as presbytery dinners. We always support the other units and activities in the church. Members from our group attended The World of Prayer at the Anglican Church Bedford in which Mary Louise Mills took part. The Berkeley gathering, Presbyterial, UCW-AGM as well as the spring and fall rallies. We helped at Scott Manor House, also collected bottles of pancake syrup for Beacon House. We took part in our UCW service on Sunday October 20th. We baked cookies and put together fifty or more tins and distributed them to shut ins during the Christmas season. The other units and The Wild Women helped us with this project. We have helped and baked for funeral receptions throughout the year. Lee-Anne and myself had a table at the Volunteer Fair and both felt it was a waste of time, poor attendance, perhaps to being held in the hall. We brought used purses to the church filled with feminine hygiene products etc. small snack items for women in shelters.

After our meeting on March 18th we had a guest speaker, Natalie Moyes, with the help of her son Gordon set up the supplies and material for an introduction to Godly Play. This is used for children up to grade four in Sunday School, but can also be used for all ages. The stories she told portrayed Abraham and Sarah's long and difficult journey. Abraham's great faith and closeness to God. The story was very much enjoyed by all our members.

On July 19th 2019 at 11am a funeral was held in East Ship Harbour for Iva Mary Monk, mother of Colleen Wilson, one of our unit members. Mary Louise Mills and myself attended her mother's funeral in support of Colleen. She received cards from other members of our group. Colleen was very pleased that we came.

On November 4th, Sylvia Knox's son in law Rick Power, came and did a slide presentation of their trip to Tanzania and Zonizibar in Africa. A very interesting talk and slide show.

Our fund raisers included one games night in April and one afternoon event in October, an early Mother's Day Tea, Christmas stockings in which we saved dimes over the year. We put this towards our Mission and Service. We made baskets for the Christmas sale.

I also would like to say a big thank you to our ladies in our group. They all come up to the task when needed. I can't say enough about our Friendship Unit.

Friendship Unit – 2019 Financial Report:

Opening Balance January 1st, 2019			555.96
Income	Sale of baskets	90.00	
	Christmas stocking money	7.80	
	Offering	390.95	
	Our Mother's Day Tea	660.00	
	Sale of dish cloths	8.00	
	Games Night and Afternoon	640.00	
	Donations	84.35	
	Sale of Baskets at Christmas sale	338.00	
	Christmas stocking money	116.00	2,335.10
Expenses:	General UCW Mission and Service	1,100.00	
	Material for Baskets	12.00	
	Expenses for Games Night	39.50	
	Expenses for Mother's Day Tea	26.00	
	Donations to BUC kitchen fund	900.00	
	Expenses for Games Afternoon	21.50	
	Gift for Rick Power	10.00	
	Box of chocolates for Jennifer Johnson & Brian Skelly	27.00	
	Gift of money Brian Skelly	25.00	2,161.00
Balance December 31,2019			730.06

Respectfully submitted

Bette-Joan Knowles, President Friendship Unit



**NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL
AND OTHER MINISTRY POSITIONS**

Darrell Johnston

Chair of Council	Peter Moorhouse
Vice Chair of Council	Open
4 Members at Large	Kim Dompierre
	Megan Aston
	Andrea McQuillin
	Tim Rorabeck
Past Chair of Council	Darlene MacDonald
Ministry & Personnel Team Lead	Lidia Thomson
Stewardship Ministry Team Lead	Carol McKnight
Communications Ministry Team Lead	Nic Fieldsend
Secretary	Carolyn Crowell
Regional Representatives	Rena Hill
	Peter Moorhouse
	Sandra Nimmo
	TBA
Christian Development Ministry Team	Jeff King (Lead)
	Neil Morehouse
	Natalie Moyes
	Lauren Scott
	Jeff Tingley
	Sandra Winters
	Kristin King
	Kim Wilson
	Jan Oakey
	Jocelyn Tingley
Communications Ministry Team	Nic Fieldsend (Lead)
	Rebecca Bailey
	Sarah MacLean
	Paul Read
	Wayne Putnam
	Nancy Wells

Congregational Care Ministry Team	Sandra Nimmo (Lead)
Coordinators	
Pastoral Care Team	Rev. Katie Aven
Hospital Visiting	Mary Louise Mills
Confined at Home/Nursing Home Visiting	Rev. Katie Aven
Berkeley Visiting	Margaret Embree
"No e-mail" List	Carolyn Crowell
Bereavement Support	Ministerial Team
Bereavement Support & Follow Up	Holly Ross
Separated/divorced Support	Ministerial Staff
Emergency Prayer Chain	Margaret Archibald/Carolyn Crowell
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Nova Boudreau
Meals in Crisis	Rena Hill/Sylvia Branton
Sympathy Cards	Mary McDermid
Get Well Cards	Mary Louise Mills
Inclusivity Team	Megan Aston (Lead)
	Carolyn Crowell (secretary)
	Lianne Chang
	Jason Janes
	Arlene Valere
Ministry & Personnel Ministry Team	Lidia Thomson (co-Lead)
	Cyril Pearce
	Peter Davison
	Rita Stevens (co-Lead)
	Rena Hill
Nominating Ministry Team	Darrell Johnston (Lead)
	Darlene MacDonald
	Peter Moorhouse
	Sandra Nimmo
	Gloria and Len Churchill
	Val Welsh
	Kristin King
Outreach Ministry Team	Karen Parnell/Jayne Wark (Co-Lead)
Beacon House Representative	Charlotte Rhodes
Hope Cottage Representative	Bob Marryatt
Hope Cottage Coordinator	Roddy MacDonald

Member at large	Ann Strickland
Member at large	Breagh Maclean
Mission & Service Enthusiast	Carolyn Crowell
Camp Kidston Representative	TBA
Property & Facilities Ministry Team	Gordon McMillan (Lead)
	Jocelyn Tingley
	Barry Goodwin
	Paul Wheaton
	Brian King
	Sandra Winters
	Andrea McQuillan
Stewardship Ministry Team	Carol McKnight (Lead)
	Roger Seward
	Rob Hunt
	Cliff Dahms
Treasurer	Debbie Pryde
Envelope Secretary	Ken Dodsworth
Weekly Counting Organization	Sandy Stevens
M & P Representative	Lidia Thomson
Congregational Care Representative	TBA
Mission & Service	Carolyn Crowell
Trustees Ministry Team	Fraser Sutherland (Lead)
	John Doehler
	Gord McMillan
	Barry Goodwin
	David Strickland (Vice chair)
	Karen Parnell (Secretary)
Welcoming Ministry Team	Gloria and Len Churchill (Lead)
	Jean Barbour
	Paula & Riley Boyd
	Pat & Sylvia Branton
	Anne Burden
	Kay Cantwell
	Terry Choyce
	Deanna Clark
	Cathy & Mike Cox
	Everett & Marion Cross
	Lorraine Deluca

	Heather DuJohn
	Jon & Monika Geske
	Dianne Horne
	Marjorie Howse
	Cheryl Inman
	Joyce Kerr Smith
	David & Kathy Lea
	Ashley Leblanc
	Colleen & Addison MacDonald
	Marlene MacDonald
	Sheila MacDonald
	Jean MacLeod
	Barry & Judy MacLeod
	Ann & Don MacVicar
	Nancy MacVicar
	Debbie Merrick
	Carolyn & Dale Morton
	Bev Nichols
	Carol Oakley
	Jan, Shawn, Oakey & family
	Carolyn, Keith & Catherine O'Neill
	Karen Parnell
	Vi Parnell
	Sue Paynter
	Dallas Reddy
	Debby & Tom Rudolph
	Marilyn Sceles
	Judy Seward
	Rob Smith
	Jon Tattrie & family
	Donna Thompson
	Roly Thompson & family
	Jocelyn Tingley
	Joan Tompkins
	Maurice Tugwell
	Mona Turner
	Faith & Paul Walker and Mary Grace
Worship & Music Ministry Team	Jon Tattrie (Lead)
Secretary	Chosen at each meeting
Finacial Administrator	Cheryl Inman
Ex-Officio	Rev. Matt Fillier

	Rick Gunn
Members at Large	Donna Miller
	Jill Wilson
Coordinators	
Bulletin Dedications	TBA
Candles & Communion Setup	Ruby Barss Brown
Coffee & Refreshments	Jocelyn Tingley & TBA
Communion Volunteers	Sylvia Branton
Decorating	Vacant
Flower Pick up	Rena Hill
Going Deeper	Terry Choyce
Scripture Readers	Monica Geske
Technical Crew	Paul Read/John Doehler
Ushers	Cheryl Inman
Welcomers	Gloria and Len Churchill
UCW Team Lead	Jill Wilson
Historian and Archivist	Vacant
Broadview Magazine Representative	Wayne Putnam
Church Librarian	Vacant



BUC Trustees

Fraser Sutherland, Chair

The Board of Trustees of BUC is comprised of the following members:

Chair: Fraser Sutherland

Vice-Chair: David Strickland

Secretary: Karen Parnell

As well Members: John Doehler, Barry Goodwin and Paul Read (temporary leave of absence)

The Board met twice in 2019 on January 2nd and May 7th.

11 Sullivan's Hill Property

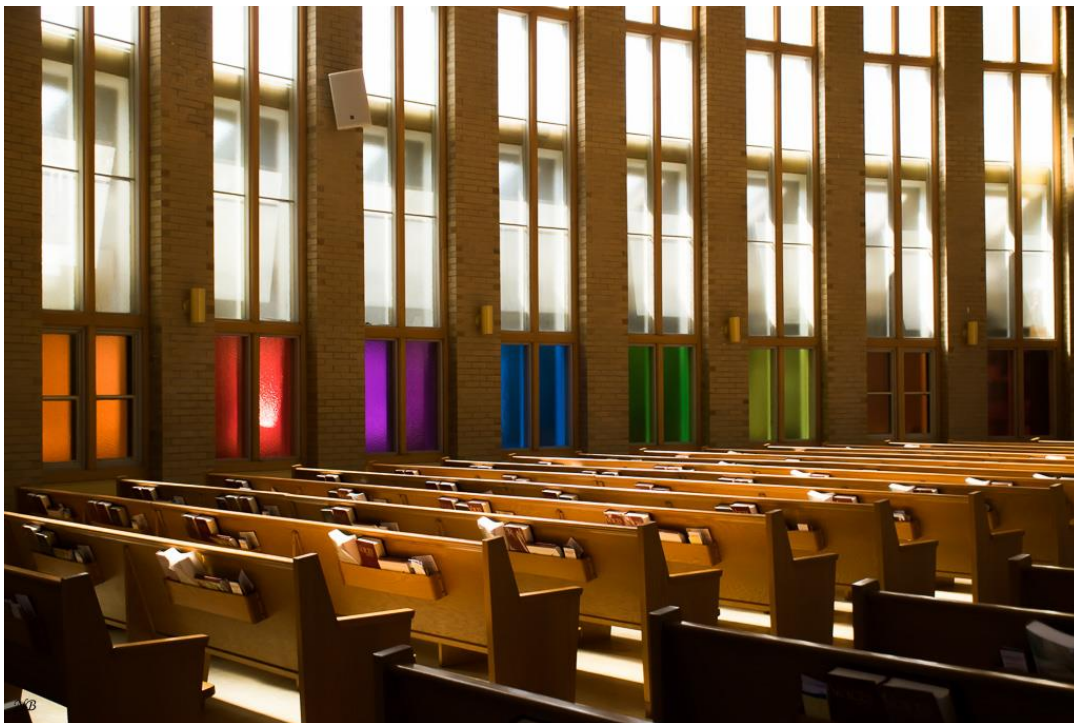
2019 Rental revenue for the property was sufficient enough to pay outstanding debt owed by Trustees to the church as well as acquiring a profit of \$5217.00. From this amount \$5000 was transferred to Church operating fund. The Board expects 2020 revenues from house rental to be approximately \$24,000 with expenses anticipated to be more than 1/2 of the revenue.

Investments

As of December 31, 2019, the Canoe Financial statement of account (ad hoc) shows that the market value of our investment is \$155,144.01, which is an increase in value of approximately \$18,000 since December 31, 2018. The Canoe Investment fund is supported by the United Church of Canada.

Bank Account

As of December 31, 2019, the balance of the Board of Trustees Gain Plan account at The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank) is \$10,468.64



**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

**Sunday, March 24, 2019
DRAFT**

The Annual General Meeting of the Bedford United Church congregation was held in the context of worship on Sunday, March 24, 2019 in the Sanctuary.

The worship presider was Matt Murphy, while Darlene MacDonald chaired the business portion of the meeting. Music was led by Rick Gunn, Minister of Music, with the Celebration Choir.

Present: Darlene MacDonald, Carolyn Crowell, Darrell Johnston, Matt Fillier, Lorna Griffin-Fillier, Sue Withers, Sandy Withers, Debbie Ross-Pearce, Andrea Richard, Peter Davison, Lesley Perkins, Marg Ashcroft, Joyce Riddell, Bill Maes, Anne Boutilier, Gordon McEachern, Barry Cameron, Ann Strickland, Dave Strickland, Pat MacCulloch, Dianne Horne, Art Horne, Breagh MacLean, Leander Drover, Margaret Drover, Stuart McCulley, Maggie McCulley, Dawn Crutchfield, Eloise Lemire, Wendy Levo, June Boswell, Carolyn Innes, Bruce Adamson, Terry Choyce, Valerie Welsh, Sandy Porter, Scott MacKay, Freda McCormick, Joy Moyes, Lee-Anne Bochet, Cathy Cox, Michael Cox, Carol McKnight, Harris Connor, Holly Connor, Margaret Archibald, Mona Turner, Ross Davison, Jane Davison, Keith Dillman, Betty Dillman, Ruby Dodge, Barbara Paterson, Richard Knox, Sylvia Knox, Jill Wilson, Sue Stewart, Ruth Strubank, Ruby Barss-Brown, Sandra Nimmo, Emily Somers, Murray Hartwell, Catherine Cantwell, Nanci Rorabeck, Tim Rorabeck, Maurice Tugwell, Jon Tattrie, Patrick Branton, Paul S. Nauss, Gail Moore, Glenda Hunter, Patrick Ferguson, Erin Ferguson, Vi Parnell, Karen Parnell, Jeff Tingley, Ruth Jay, Jean MacLeod, Brenda Burchell, Judy Kimber, Bev Nichols, Cheryl Inman, Kelly Cull, Mary Louise Mills, Della McLellan, Maureen Dolamont, George Thompson, Brian King, Rob Smith, Nic Fieldsend, Cliff Milligan, Darlene Milligan, Hester Milligan, Charles Milligan, Judy Varma, Heman Varma, Sharon MacLean, Bruce McCulloch, Don Ambler, Susan Sutherland, Fraser Sutherland, Donna Miller, Linda Inglis, Lou Hiltz, Rhonda Allen, Barry Goodwin, David Keefe, Diane Allen, Susan Allen, Jeff Hines, Elizabeth Hines, Bernice Marryatt, Bob Marryatt, Heather Hennigar, Susie MacAfee, Paige Fraser, Jan Oakey, Shawn Oakey, Hassen Rashed, Jane Whittaker, Gillian Wheaton, Paul Wheaton, Nova Boudreau, Megan Aston, Mark Filiaggi Violet Herczeg, Kim Dompierre, Janet Rowe, Dallas Reddy, Ann MacVicar, Don MacVicar, Joan Christie, Peter Christie, Doreen Hollands, Darrell Wojcik, Nanci Taylor, Charlie Scott, Wayne Putnam, Sheryl Read, Paul Read, John Doehler, Natalie Moyes, Wendy Tingley, Jocelyn Tingley,

Regrets:

Centering with Joy: The service opened with singing. Matt Murphy welcomed people and some announcements were given.

Lighting the Worship Candles:

A Time for Gathering Stones: Matt Fillier and Paige Fraser suggested we continue our Lenten journey with choosing small stones to carry with us through this season.

The congregation joined in a time of singing.

A Time for Gathering Spirit: Various people reported on some of the many programs offered here at BUC. The sung response to each report was "What can I do?" (MV 191.)

This is Us: Family Ministry: The Davison Family - Peter, Andrea, Hannah & Vance

This is Us: Music & Affirming Ministry: Anne Boutilier for the Choir; Emma Scott for Regenesi, Nathan Oakey for youth who went to Bridgewater for their Affirming ministry service

This is Us: Congregaional Care Ministry: Donna Miller

This is Us: Outreach & Interfaith Ministry: Jane Wark & Nic Fieldsend (Nic spoke about sharing e-mails with Al Rasoul in the wake of the shootings in New Zealand. Darrell Johnston had taken them flowers and others have been in touch.

Teens United: Lauren & Emma Scott spoke about this group.

A Time for Gathering Hope: Paige Fraser & the children

Reading: Matthew 14: 13-21 - Joyce Riddell

The Message: the Rev. Matt Fillier - Love like God is compassion - What kind of church are we - on life support or supporting life? Are we passionate about equality - now and for the future?

Musical Offering: *Go Light Your World*

Offering Collected & Blessed: *When we are Living (VU 581)*

Opening motions: Darlene MacDonald took the chair and opened the meeting for business.

It was moved (ValWelsh/Peter Davison) and **CARRIED** that the formal AGM be opened.

It was moved (Nic Fieldsend/Maurice Tugwell) and **CARRIED** that all present be empowered to vote.

It was moved (Mary Louise Mills/Bruce McCulloch) and **CARRIED** that all reports in the annual booklet be accepted as printed and circulated except the 2018 Financial Statements, 2019 Budget and Nominating Report.

Words from Al Rasoul: Darrell Johnston noticed that Hassan Rashed had left for another commitment. Darrell asked him to come back and say a few words on behalf of Al Rasoul which

he did. He feels very much at home at BUC and hopes more of us can visit at Al Rasoul when we can.

Sowing Seeds for Tomorrow: Murray Hartwell, retiring Team Lead of Stewardship, walked us through the 2018 Financial Reports and answered any questions.

It was moved (Murray Hartwell/Maurice Tugwell) and **CARRIED** that the 2018 Financial Report be adopted and printed in the booklet.

Murray presented the 2019 budget and reviewed some of the points.

It was moved (Murray Hartwell/Bruce McCulloch) and **CARRIED** that the 2019 budget be approved as presented.

Celebrating Leaders:

1. Darlene MacDonald called forward several members who are retiring as Team Lead of Ministry Teams and presented those who were present with a box of chocolates. Nova Boudreau took a picture. They are: Ann MacVicar, Barry Cameron, Murray Hartwell and Arlene Valere.
2. Darrell Johnston, Team Lead of Nominating, presented the slate of officers, Team Leads, coordinators, etc. to be elected. He spoke about a few additions that were not in the annual report booklet or that he wanted to note:

Gloria and Len Churchill will be returning soon to Bedford to take up again their role as Team Leads of Welcoming.

Jon Tattrie will be Team Lead of Worship and Music.

April Hart will be Team Lead of Inclusivity.

The Team Lead position for Stewardship is vacant at the moment.

Presbytery representatives have been changed to Region 15 representatives due to the new UCofC changes: BUC is entitled to 4 representatives. Don Ambler, Sandra Nimmo and April Hart are currently serving.

Kim Dompierre has agreed to a further 2 year term as Council Member at Large.

Andrea McQuillim has agreed to serve 2 years as Council Member at Large.

Darrell called for further nominations three times.

It was moved (Darrell Johnston/Rob Smith) and **CARRIED** that the names printed in the booklet plus the others named be our leadership team for 2019.

Closing Motion: It was moved (Wendy Levo/Bruce McCulloch) that the AGM delegate ongoing business to the BUC Council for reflection/action and that the meeting be adjourned.

Singing: The congregation sang *Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving (MV185)*

Closing: Matt Murphy spoke a few words in closing and the congregation sang “Behold, Behold” as it dispersed.

.....
Darlene MacDonald, Chair

Carolyn Crowell, Minute Secretary

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 21, 2019

A special Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, April 21, 2019 following the 9 am Easter Service in the Sanctuary.

Attendance was not taken, but most of the 9 am congregation remained for the meeting as well as some members who arrived early for the 11 am service.

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. David Hewitt, representing Region 15 in the new UCofC structure.

He outlined the reasons for this meeting and then called for a mover and seconder for the following motion:

It was moved (Mary Louise Mills/Val Welsh) and **CARRIED** that, pending her ordination on May 26, 2019, Bedford United Church calls Katie Aven to the position of Minister of Congregational Care for 20 hours a week. The terms of call would continue unchanged as per the congregational meeting that approved her appointment, which began on June 18, 2018.

The vote was carried unanimously, with much joy.

Having completed the business before it, the Rev. David Hewitt then declared the meeting adjourned.

.....
David Hewitt, Chair

Carolyn Crowell, Minute Secretary

Stewardship Team Ministry

Carol McKnight

Stewardship is the responsibility that we all have to maintain and use wisely the gifts that God has given us. Members of Bedford United Church (BUC) generously share their resources of time, talents and finance in many ways. Thank you.

The Stewardship team oversees the financial mission of BUC by providing financial updates to Council and the congregation, advice on the financial implications of decisions and services in relation to the collection and recording of the church's finances.

It has been a privilege for me to work with members of, and advisers to, the Stewardship team who represent a vast amount of knowledge and wisdom, including

Al Archibald *	Debbie Pryde	<u>Advisers</u>
Carolyn Crowell	Roger Seward	Rev Matthew Fillier
Ken Dodsworth	Sandy Stevens	Murray Hartwell *
Rob Hunt	David Welsh	Darlene MacDonald *
Archie MacPherson *		

Carolyn Crowell is the M&S enthusiast as well as Secretary. Ken Dodsworth as Envelope Secretary maintains the database of giving and givers. Archie MacPherson has prepared the monthly and annual financial statements for several years and provides ongoing support to me as I take on this task. Succeeding David Welsh as Treasurer, Debbie Pryde has implemented a new accounting system and payment routines. Sandy Stevens continues to organize and monitor the weekly counting functions.

The *s represent the 'stars' who are not continuing with Stewardship, and my heartfelt thanks for their support and availability for advice and encouragement. Special thanks to Murray Hartwell who remained as Stewardship Lead for the first half of the year.

Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 (k = thousands)

Revenues of \$448k were up on 2018 but lower than budget of \$460k, due mainly to lower congregational envelope and PAR givings. Expenses of \$467k were higher than budget by \$8k. The resulting loss of \$20k leaves the operating fund in deficit of \$17k.

In January 2019, a loan from Church Extension Board of \$100k was used to reduce the Loan from the East Coast Credit Union. These loans total \$202k as at year end.

The operating budget for 2020 was prepared without appreciation of the potential effects of COVID-19. The budget is a plan, a goal – but 2020 will be a challenging year, as change becomes the new normal. The Stewardship team will monitor the financial progress throughout the year.

I ask that you continue to give generously of your time, talents and financial resources, as you are able, as BUC makes a real difference to all.

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH												
OPERATING FUND												
BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR THE YEAR		2020										
	BUDGET	Inc (Dec)	Actual Historical Data									
	Budget vs		2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	
	2020	2019										
REVENUE												
Local - Envelope/Loose/Bulletins	130,000	2,536	127,464	134,127	140,226	135,514	127,001	146,268	152,798	139,150	136,931	
Local - PAR	257,500	7,658	249,842	252,281	260,138	255,067	260,155	248,329	217,181	226,748	225,757	
Local - Special Donation	12,000	(2,676)	14,676	8,888	10,175	15,344	33,369	17,840	2,822	2,976	33,235	
Hunter Fund	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rental/Fees (net)	22,500	2,974	19,526	13,929	24,464	14,045	16,395	17,959	16,600	10,467	11,700	
Trust Fund	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	8,500	10,000	0	0	0	
UCW (Note 1)	0	(3,000)	3,000	0	0	3,000	501	4,650	6,000	5,451	3,800	
Fund raising/Other	28,000	(299)	28,299	25,159	17,914	14,059	22,378	5,373	17,221	81,569	8,642	
Major Repairs/Campaigns (Note 2)	0	0	0	0	5,685	49,630	7,604	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL REVENUE	455,000	7,193	447,807	434,384	468,602	486,659	475,903	450,419	412,622	466,361	420,065	
EXPENSES												
Total Committee Expenses	23,650	2,880	20,770	20,918	22,150	19,817	16,144	17,521	14,289	22,679	32,864	
Discretionary Council / Ministerial Expenses	4,000	739	3,261	16,730	6,733	4,128	3,113	1,958	1,341	1,361	2,766	
Total Finance Expenses (Note 3)	30,150	(2,028)	32,178	27,515	23,614	23,264	20,730	19,827	17,364	16,966	17,296	
Staff Related Expenses	333,700	19,995	313,705	287,663	245,214	295,200	329,763	334,591	307,332	282,732	293,258	
Total Management Expenses (Note 4)	97,150	(910)	98,060	91,325	134,200	128,983	127,701	81,962	78,646	91,633	81,650	
TOTAL EXPENSES	488,650	20,676	467,974	444,151	431,911	471,392	497,451	455,859	418,972	415,371	427,834	
INCOME(LOSS)	(33,650)	(13,483)	(20,167)	(9,767)	36,690	15,268	(21,548)	(5,440)	(6,350)	50,990	(7,769)	
OPERATING FUND EQUITY(DEFICIENCY)												
Beginning of year	(16,761)	(20,167)	3,406	13,174	(23,516)	(38,784)	(25,856)	(20,416)	(14,066)	(65,056)	(57,287)	
END OF YEAR	(50,411)	(33,650)	(16,761)	3,406	13,174	(23,516)	(38,784)	(25,856)	(20,416)	(14,066)	(65,056)	
MISSION AND SERVICE	75,000	2,395	72,605	74,867	74,825	76,793	78,960	75,000	76,737	76,737	74,811	
Note												
1	It is expected that UCW donations will be made to the kitchen renovation project.											
2	Revenue from the Image OUR Future (parking lot/heat pump) campaign (\$27,700 in 2019) and the associated costs are on a separate balance sheet (Dec'19 Fin Xtmts. Page 6)											
3	Includes \$6k in interest costs related to current loans.											
4	Sabbatical leave accrued \$10k.											

APPENDIX A

Please look for a separate document on our webpage for our financial statements ending Dec. 31, 2019.