



Sackville United Church Annual Report 2022

There is
Room
at the
Table
For
Everyone

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School Supplies Fundraiser
Preacher's Help Group
Small Group Studies
Parents and Tots
Sunday Seekers Group
Ushers & Hospitality
Choir and Musical Guests
Summer Pulpit Supply
Justice and Outreach
Healing Fund Fundraising
Orange Shirt Day
Food Bank/Christmas Cheer
UCW



***Draw the
Circle Wide***

Carols and Cocktails
PIE Day
Property and Maintenance
Services at the Drew
Affirming Ministry
A/V and Sound
Intergenerational Services
Scripture Readers
Online and In-Person Worship
Communications
Bake Sale
Trustees
Shared Space
Online Auction

Our Governance

Minister's Report

Minister's Reflection, 2022

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:12

This verse has been rattling around in my brain since I read it as I prepared for Lectionary Study Group during the week of January 30th and we heard it read during our Sunday Gathering on February 5th. This text is both a call and a promise.

Verse 12 is preceded with these words:

If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
 if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.

There are a lot of 's in these verses, a lot of yokes that need removing: the yokes of racism, ageism, classism, sexism, addictions and colonialism, and there are many who are hungry, lonely and afflicted – and yes, I do believe that we, as Sackville United Church have been about this work over the past year, so maybe the realm of God is coming near – but I do believe there is more to be done before we can truly be called repairers of the breach. We need to talk about, and work toward, reconciliation and reparation.

Reconciliation is the spiritual practice of seeking loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God and one another and striving to heal and transform injustice and brokenness in ourselves, our communities, institutions, and society. In the language of the text from Isaiah, it's called repairing the breach.

It is my hope and prayer that the Mission & Ministry Task Group and the congregation will consider, in the early days of 2023, how we as a community will participate in the repairing, restoration, and healing of people, institutions, and systems?

Yes, we have begun that work in years past and you will see evidence of it in the pages of reports that follow – but there is so much more to be done.

To close, I rejoice in the wisdom of those who made the decision to have this community rooted on Main Street – this location has continued to afford Sackville United Church a visible and practical space from which to “restore streets to live in” – and yes, I hope that it may continue to be so!

As said Dag Hammarskjold, “For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes.”
May it be so!

Lloyd Bruce
Minister, Sackville United Church

Our Governance

Activities of the Executive

Report of the Activities of the Executive of the Congregation of Sackville United Church in 2022

Members of the Executive for 2022: Sarah Poirier (co-chair), Linda MacDonald (co-chair), Rebecca Houtsma (Communicator), Chrystal Schipper-Everill (Treasurer), Luc Poirier (Elder), Edward Knuckles (Elder), Christy Watts (Elder), Lois Hicks (Elder), Janet Hammock (Elder), Eric Tusz-King (Elder)*

The Minister, Rev. Lloyd Bruce, also participates in all meetings in an ex-officio capacity. The Executive traditionally meets twice monthly for ten months of the year, once for Grounding and once to conduct Business.

As the governing body of the congregation, the Executive seeks to maintain close engagement with the congregation through the various ministry groups: Worship and Sanctuary, Ministry and Personnel, and Property/Maintenance, among others. As well, the Executive may invite the formation of Circles of Service (Task Groups) to meet other needs as identified.

Responsibility for leading the Grounding meetings circulates amongst the group. These meetings play a vitally important role as members explore spiritual practices together and build a sense of community within the group.

Business meetings focus on church matters which arise from within the congregation, from the Board of Trustees, and from the community at large.

2022 proved to be another challenging year as the Covid-19 pandemic continued. During Business meetings throughout the year, the Executive held regular reviews of the current recommendations and protocols (offered by the federal and provincial Departments of Health) necessary to keep our faith community safe. We continue to offer online services, as well as masking and distancing when attending services in person. We have begun to cautiously conduct extra-curricular events in-person onsite at SUC again, most recently in the form of the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, which was attended by approximately 60 people.

Soon after the AGM in March 2022, the Executive formed “The Futures Group”, a task force whose mandate it was to explore possible future funding options for Sackville United Church in lieu of the Lafford payments, which are scheduled to come to an end

in early 2023. Through community engagement – which included a survey, discussion groups, and congregational meetings – numerous options were explored, including increasing the use of the various rental spaces available at SUC, as well as the possibility of creating sustainable housing in the upstairs (currently largely unused) space. After a year, during which each of the possible options were explored in detail and ultimately discarded, the Executive disbanded the Futures Group and formed an exploratory Mission & Ministry Task Group. The mandate of this committee will be to assist the congregation to discern its mission and ministry in the present and ever evolving context that is Sackville. We expect the Task Group to complete its work in mid-2023, at which time a report will be presented to the Executive and subsequently the congregation.

Another common thread that required Executive attention throughout the year were various building maintenance issues: from leaks in the roof, to graffiti, to door lock mechanisms, and overall general building tidiness. In the late fall of 2022, we were grateful that Catherine Gaw, Charles Trenholm, and Chris Forestall stepped forward and agreed to keep on top of these types of issues going forward.

Other activities the Executive participated in and oversaw during the busy 2022 year included:

March 2022

- The AGM was held March 6, following the service
- Linda MacDonald and Sarah Poirier were nominated as Chairs, and agreed to serve as co-chairs, alternating months of responsibility; Rebecca Houtsma was confirmed as Communicator
- Assisted in a review of final preparations for Rev. Lloyd Bruce's sabbatical and vacation (July 4-September 4)

April

- Agreed to assist Ukrainian refugees with practical means (clothing, furniture, etc.): all donations were collected and distributed by the Ukrainian Club in Moncton

May

- Received a presentation from our four Sunday School leaders as they stepped down from their posts: Anne Pirie, Andrea Beverley, Gary MacDonald, and Mora MacDonald, as part of the May Business meeting
- Received a presentation from Janet Hammock on behalf of the new 2SLGBTQ+ Affirmative Action Team, as a continuation of our journey as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

June

- Reviewed the Benevolent Fund and its purpose: the fund was originally established to support members of the congregation who found themselves in unexpected need of temporary support, with undesignated funds remaining at the end of the year to be donated to a charity. There was discussion of a regular fundraiser to keep the fund “topped up”.
- Reviewed many summer requests for use of space (including Live Bait Workshops, and Atlantic Wildlife Institute offering a children’s nature/music camp)
- Officially designated Jennie Del Motte as Rentals Liaison, allowing her to book rentals based on the building schedule
- Held discussions surrounding the need to open SUC as a cooling centre during heat advisory days: this will be ongoing as climate change continues to impact us going forward
- Finalized preparations for Rev. Lloyd Bruce’s time away over the summer months

September

- Approved funding for Bruce Moore to audit courses on 2SLGBTQ+ Theology and Pastoral Care as part of our ongoing commitment as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

October

- Rebecca Houtsma attended Godly Play Training
- As part of our Grounding meeting, the Executive attended *From Pandemic to Endemic: Impact on Theology, Church, and Spiritual Health* (a webinar offered by the Ottawa Council of Churches)

November

- Began review of positions of Administrative Assistant and Music Director at the recommendation of the Ministry and Personnel committee
- Approved release of funds for a building appraisal (this has never been done, but will be needed for a possible change in insurance carriers) at the recommendation of the Trustees

December

- Custodial position change: many thanks to Austin Ibbitson for his many years of service; Charles and Sue Trenholm have agreed to take on the task of caretakers of the space in a volunteer capacity for a trial period of 6 months

January 2023

- Agreed to complete sponsorship paperwork for a Syrian family of 5 (family reunification for a local Permanent Resident, Maisaa Al Tamki)
- Completed review of Administrative Assistant and Music Director contracts

- Began preparation for Rev. Lloyd Bruce's upcoming sabbatical (May 1 – June 30) and subsequent vacation (July 2023)
- Received the resignations of Shirley Hopkins and Karen Bamford (Ministry & Personnel) effective April 30, 2023. The Executive is extremely grateful to both Shirley and Karen for their 7 years of service on this committee.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive, we remain grateful for the faith and trust placed in us by the congregation. The co-chairs are also very grateful to have such an amazing team to work with as we move through the year, assisting the Rev. Lloyd Bruce in addressing day-to-day matters of SUC. We thank those who have completed their terms on the Executive, and welcome those who are joining us. We look forward to the coming year and the joys and challenges it will bring.

*Respectfully submitted by
Sarah Poirier (Co-chair)
Linda MacDonald (Co-chair)
Executive Committee, Sackville United Church*

Minutes of Congregational Meetings

March 6, 2022:

Sackville United Church Annual Meeting

Minister in Attendance: Rev. Lloyd Bruce

Members in Attendance In-Person: Dawn Estabrooks, Dianne Oulton, Frank Oulton, Chrystal Schipper-Everill, Jennie Del Motte, Shirley Hopkins, Rev. Catherine Gaw, Elsie MacDonald, Janet Hammock, Edward Knuckles, Janet Geier, Margaret Anderson, Lois Hicks, Bruce Moore, Eric Tusz-King, Margaret Tusz-King, Geoffrey Patridge, Chris Watts.

Members in Attendance via Zoom: Judith Colwell, Ruth Buckinger, Sarah Poirier, Luc Poirier, Glenda Thornton, Harris McSheffery, Anne Pirie, Linda MacDonald.

Adherents in Attendance In-Person and Online: Ellie Hummel, Marilyn Lerch.

Rev. Lloyd provided words of welcome and called the meeting to order. A moment of silence and gratitude was held in gratitude for the life of the 14 church members who passed away in 2021.

Rev. Lloyd called for the election of a chair and secretary of the meeting.

MOTION: *That Janet Hammock act as chair of the AGM and that Lois Hicks act as secretary for the 2021 Sackville United Church AGM.*

Moved by Catherine Gaw, seconded by Elsie MacDonald.

MOTION CARRIED.

Opening Motions

MOTION: That the meeting agenda as presented by the Executive for the 2021 AGM be adopted.

Moved by Catherine Gaw, seconded by Edward Knuckles.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: *That all present (both in-person and online) be permitted to vote on all matters.*

Moved by Bruce Moore, seconded by Janet Geier.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: *That that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Sackville United Church of March 28, 2021 be adopted as presented within the 2021-22 Annual Report.*

Moved by Elsie MacDonald, seconded by Margaret Anderson.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: *That the minutes of the congregational meetings of the Sackville United Church of May 2, 2021 and November 14, 2021 be approved as presented within the 2021-22 Annual Report.*

Moved by Eric Tusz-King, seconded by Chrystal Schipper-Everill.

MOTION CARRIED.

Non-Financial Annual Reports

MOTION: *That all reports included in the 2021-2 Sackville United Church Annual Report with the exception of the financial reports and 2022 budget be received and approved for information purposes.*

Moved by Bruce Moore, seconded by Frank Oulton.

MOTION CARRIED.

Jennie Del Motte spoke briefly on the variety of new reports (Ministry & Personnel, Worship & Sanctuary, Rockport United, etc.) contained within the 2021-22 Sackville United Annual Report compared to previous years. This change is as a result of the 2021 realignment of pastoral charge boundaries, leading to a consolidated annual report as opposed to the previous Sackville United Church/Sackville Pastoral Charge dual report model.

Financial Reports

MOTION: *That the financial reports for 2021, including Income Statements, Balance Sheets, and notes on those reports for Sackville United Church and Sackville Pastoral Charge, as well as the 2021 Investment Report and Rockport Financial Report, be adopted.*

Moved by Chrystal Schipper-Everill, seconded by Margaret Tusz-King.

Chrystal Schipper-Everill highlighted that the Sackville Pastoral Charge financials as presented in the Annual Report were reviewed and approved by Visions United as part of an annual mutual review of books. The Sackville United Church reports as presented may undergo slight further revisions at the suggestion of Visions United, but that all totals and funds were accounted for and would remain unchanged.

Catherine Gaw spoke in recognition of the positive nature of the 2021 Sackville United income statement, which saw a significant increase over previous years. She shared, as well, the wish that this positive trend would continue.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: *That the budget for Sackville United Church for 2022 be adopted as presented.*

Moved by Chrystal Schipper-Everill, seconded by Jennie Del Motte.

Judith questioned the budget line “2/3 of loose offering”. Chrystal Schipper-Everill explained that, as per a motion by the church executive several years prior, 2/3 of all loose offerings go towards the general operational fund of the church, and the remaining 1/3 to Mission & Service.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: *That the 2022 Mission & Service target goal for Sackville United Church be \$25000.*

Moved by Judith Colwell, seconded by Chrystal Schipper-Everill.

MOTION CARRIED.

Our Membership: 2022

Members removed from Sackville UC:

Through Death:

Trenholm, Leola Doreen	March 6, 2021
Hicks, Florence	December 31, 2021
Anderson, Andrew William (Bill)	January 25, 2022
Byers, David Roland	August 25, 2022
Atkinson, Aubrey Wood	September 9, 2022



Baptisms Performed:

Vivarais, Lita Mai	October 23, 2022
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Marriages Performed:

Ryan James Fury and Jelena G. Dumka	July 30, 2022
David W. Fraser and Janet E. FitzGerald	August 26, 2022
Craig Smart and Rachel Harpell	August 27, 2022
Joshua Best and Lacey White	September 17, 2022
Justin Moore and Shannalee Smith	October 15, 2022

Funerals, Memorials, and Graveside Services Registered:

	Date of Death:	Funeral Date:
Anderson, Andrew William (Bill)	January 2022	February 2, 2022
Proulx, Allan Michael	February 5, 2022	Private Cremation
Trenholm, Leola Doreen	March 6, 2021	April 16, 2022
MacKay, Janice M.	January 18, 2022	May 14, 2022
Hicks, Edith Blanche (Estabrooks)	March 25, 2022	May 25, 2022
Murray, Marion Blanche	December 9, 2021	June 4, 2022
Barry, Alfred Joseph	January 29, 2022	June 12, 2022

Funerals, Memorials, and Graveside Services Registered (cont'd):

	Date of Death:	Funeral Date:
Berry, Aaron	August 5, 2022	August 13, 2022
Morice, Charli Lorraine	August 11, 2022	August 20, 2022
Hicks, Florence	December 31, 2021	September 10, 2022
MacDonald, Harold	July 12, 2022	September 10, 2022
Atkinson, Aubrey	September 9, 2022	September 14, 2022
Moses, Wynne Edward	September 15, 2022	September 18, 2022
Leger, Karen	October 27, 2022	October 31, 2022
Anderson, Heather	November 16, 2022	November 26, 2022
Tower, Terry Margaret	November 26, 2022	December 2, 2022

Our Statistics:

2022

Total Sackville UC Confirmed members:

282 (Resident-147; Non-resident-135)

Total Households under pastoral care:

163

Total number of financially supporting households:

74

Ministry Area Reports:

Worship and Faith Formation

Circle of Service: Worship and Sanctuary Committee

2022 ANNUAL REPORT WORSHIP AND SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Members: Linda MacDonald, Paula Sears, Dawn Estabrooks, Jennie Del Motte, The Rev. Lloyd Bruce

Three meetings were held: Feb. 2, May 3, Sept. 28

Six communions scheduled: March 6, April 14, April 17, June 5, Oct. 2, Nov. 27

Summer services, July 3 – Sept. 4, commenced at 10 a.m., one hour earlier than the rest of the year.

Budget remains at \$400-\$500.

Pulpit suppliers: Feb. 27 - Jordanna Wright (via Zoom)
May 22 – (The Rev.) Ellie Hummel and (The Rev.) Heather McClure
July 3, 10, 17 – (The Rev.) Catherine Gaw
July 24 - Eric Tusz-King
July 31, Aug 7, 14 - Sara Jewell
Aug. 21 - Bruce Moore
Aug. 28 - Janet Hammock
Sept. 4 - Gary MacDonald
Nov. 13 – (The Rev.) Ellie Hummel
Dec. 11 – (The Rev.) Heather McClure

1. Sunday Worship services, online only, in compliance with provincial COVID regulations: Jan. 2 – March 6, were available for viewing live on the Sackville United Church Facebook page and from the church website www.sackvilleunitedchurch.org immediately following the service. After March 6, in-person services required mask wearing and the accommodation for those who wished to remain distanced.

2. Linda searched for, purchased and donated four panels of curtains in each of the colors - purple, white, red and green - for use on both sides of the screen at the front of the sanctuary, during the seasonal times of the church. Curtain rods were also purchased.
3. Re-starting of volunteers being bible readers during Sunday worship was initiated with the signup sheet placed on the Circles of Service wall Board.
4. Rowan White was hired to work the sound board technology for 12 Sunday services at \$20 per Sunday. Luc Poirier volunteered to learn the system with Jennie as his trainer.
5. A very large wooden cross made by Rev. Lloyd was erected between the two Main Street doors for the Easter season.
6. Lenten theme: Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent, using resources from *A Sanctified Art*, at the cost of \$160.
7. Dedication of a banner in memory of Karen Sears was held on Mother's Day, May 8.
8. Anne Pirie-Hay, Mora MacDonald, and Andrea Beverley were recognized for their outstanding leadership with the Sunday School program on June 5. We also celebrated Pentecost after the worship service on June 5, by having a BBQ and cake. This was the 97th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada and the beginning of the National Indigenous History Month.
9. Caroline MacLeod, a retired United Church minister, participated in the Oct. 2 Worship service.
10. Baptism of Lita Mai Vivarais, daughter of Jansene, was held Oct. 23 and a Baptismal Candle was given.
11. October 30 was celebrated as the 60th anniversary of UCW. Former members were presented with a red rose, Brenda Allen provided cake for the gathering celebration after the service. This marked the disbanding of the local unit.

12. Terrasonga Ecological Musical Troupe, a youth musical performance program with environmental action of the Atlantic Wildlife Institute, along with their Outreach Coordinator, Christine MacLeod, shared in the Nov. 20 worship service.
13. On Nov. 23, the wooden display of the nativity scene was placed between our two doors on Main Street.
14. Emma Yee was a guest musician on Dec. 4.
15. On Dec. 11, Julia Gill and Annika Williams, shared their musical skills during our worship service. This was also “Sock it to me” day, whereby socks, hats, and mitts were collected and donated to Ensemble Moncton. Ashley Legere, from Ensemble Moncton gave us an update on the Harm Reduction Vending Machines, one of which was installed here in 2020.
16. Amanda Godin shared her musical talent on Dec 18.
17. The Longest Night, The Winter Solstice was Dec. 21.
18. The Advent devotional resource guide from www.santifiedart.org was approved for purchase by the committee. The focus was From Generation to Generation, costing \$160.
19. Candlelight service was on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. No worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee by Dawn Estabrooks

Circle of Service: Ministry of Faith Formation with Children and Youth

**Sackville United Church Sunday School
Report for January-June 2022**

January – June 2022 Sunday School leaders connected with 11 families on a regular basis and welcomed new persons when the opportunity arose. We continued zoom sessions with children every 4-6 weeks and delivered at home kits for families. Mora MacDonald and Andrea Beverley often offered leadership online with children. This was a time of connecting with one another, offering stories, holding familiar practices with wondering and a feast time. Rev. Lloyd Bruce was a faithful presence, also connecting new persons and managing the online link. Jennie Del Motte, music director, showed us a way to sing together online. Imagine singing “Like a Rock” with actions in a Zoom session!

Average attendance in Zoom sessions was 6 children aged 5 -12 years. We explored a variety of sacred stories, attuned to the liturgical seasons: Epiphany, Lent, The Mystery of Easter, the Good Shepherd and Communion; stories about people and aspects of creation from sheep to stars, water and the watershed; and stories about love. e.g. The 10 best Ways and a book about When God Made the World. It was fun and a blessing to be together.

Gathering in community and learning/sharing were key aspects. We learned how to create sacred space in a new way online and to connect through family kits with letters, candles, feast food, creative materials, and spiritual practices. There were opportunities to participate in Lenten practices with the congregation, Easter eggs to design and paint. Family kits were shaped by Gary MacDonald and Anne Pirie who enjoyed delivering these, especially having visits in driveways and porches.

At Pentecost on June the 3rd, we marked an ending and a new beginning. Anne Pirie presented the Story of Circle of the Year in worship; children gathered with Gary MacDonald to create a banner. Sunday School paused for a summer break.

I am grateful to the leadership team: Andrea Beverley, Gary MacDonald, and Mora MacDonald. In May we met with the Executive for a dialogue about children’s ministry. The opportunity to learn and work together in ministry with children and youth has been a joy. For me being in relationship with children and youth over the years has been transformative.

I echo what Lloyd Bruce wrote in a letter to families in June: “Thank you for your participation in the community we share! Thank you, parents and others who assisted children in connecting via Zoom. Thank you, children for the energy, questions, and deep spirituality you bring each time we gather!”

The Executive of Sackville United Church invited members to consider leadership in a journey of faith with children and youth over a new threshold in Sept. 2022. Gary MacDonald and Rebecca Houtsma responded to the call to begin again in a new way. Thank you!

Faithfully submitted by Anne Pirie

<p>Sackville United Church Sunday School Report for September-December 2022</p>
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The culture of any institution is fluid. This includes the culture of our church as a denomination. Think of the culture of change in how many of us now dress for Sunday services compared to those days when we would not think of wearing anything but our “church clothes” to Sunday worship.

Sometimes change comes slowly, at other times all too fast. In both, we can be caught up by that change before we are prepared. Change is inevitable. Sometimes that change is so small as to be almost unnoticed, at other times more dramatic than we might prefer. Change can be very unsettling.

Until recently one of the reasons I attended church was that it was there that I could participate in a community of different generations ~ young, old and in between. For several years I enjoyed participating as a teacher in our Sunday School. Suddenly what was is no more. No longer do we have a Sunday School. Children and youth are no longer a visible part of who we are as a faith community. This is true for many mainline churches across our country as Canada has become a country that is more secular than it is religious.

We may mourn this change, yet to try to create a reversal would result only in frustration. Indeed, the times are a-changin’. They always did and always will.

What does all this mean for those of us who remain as faithful participants in our church community where youth and children are no longer visible? How do we now understand those congregational vows and promises we made during the sacrament of baptism when parents first brought those same children and youth into our faith community?

I have no ready answers to these questions. What I do know is that we are called to remain a community of faith. It has been said that there is no such thing as “a Christian.” To be Christian is to live in a community of relationships. The pronouns are not “I, me” but “we, our.”

We are still called to continue on as faithful followers of Jesus. We may mourn what is no more, yet we are not to give in to despair. In community we continue to pray, keep watch and sometimes simply wait to know what it is we are called to do and be in this world of constant change.

“I don’t believe God has brought us this far to leave us alone.”

~ traditional gospel hymn

Respectfully submitted by Gary MacDonald

Group: Choir/Director of Music

In 2022 we welcomed the return of many familiar ways of making music at SUC, including regular weekly rehearsal and performance by the choir during services! After a mix of hybrid services earlier in the year, the choir made their triumphant return at Easter, and other occasional performances between then and June. The choir has continued to meet and sing weekly since September. We continue to search to find ways to be seen and heard clearly both in person and online using our available technology.

We welcomed many special musical guests this year, particularly in Advent. Emma Yee, Julia Gill, Annika Williams and Amanda Godin offered their time and skill throughout Advent, and Rev. Ellie Hummel shared her skills on recorder as part of our Christmas Eve service. Choir members and frequent contributors to the musical life of our congregation, Ed Knuckles and Harris McSheffery offered their talents in performing solos and duets through the year; this included an original composition by Harris, and the traditional O Holy Night duet by Ed and Jennie on Christmas Eve.

I wish to end this year's report in the same vein as I have since the start of the pandemic, by thanking Rev. Lloyd for his dedication to learning and adapting to the various technological changes and troubleshooting that have made and continue to make up a not-insignificant part of his (and my) work.

I trust that everyone is continuing to "make a joyful noise" wherever and whenever it is possible and am grateful that we are able to offer a weekly service that goes beyond these walls and allows us to build inclusive bridges across our community and world.

*Respectfully submitted by
Jennie Del Motte*

Group: Sunday Seekers Book Study Group

“Our images of God matter. Just as how we conceptualize God affects what we think the Christian life is about, so do our images of God.” -Marcus Borg

A curious and interesting group gathers via Zoom each Sunday morning- usually at 9:00 or 9:15. That in itself shows the strength of the bond created and nurtured by pursuing faith formation.

In 2022 a wide variety of books were shared, and we branched out into watching some films. The following areas of discussion took place:

- Film series on Black in Canada—as compiled by the Anti-Racism group of the Eastern regions of the United Church
- De-Constructing Jesus- an on-line encounter on looking at faith through a new lens. Hosted by Tripp Fuller and Diana Butler Bass.
- One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for the Planet: by Richard Wagamese
- Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World, by Katharine Hayhoe
- No Cure for Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear), by Kate Bowler
- During Advent, Sarah Poirier provided leadership in the program, Navigating Mystery, by Janice MacLean. (THANKS SARAH!)

Each of these opportunities challenged us to look at our assumptions. The discussion led us to reflect on how we listen to one another, the earth and those with whom we share community. They enriched opportunity to speak of our faith and they deepened a community which averaged ten members. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to sign on for every study, but if one comes up that interests you, please join in.

We encourage you to consider joining, or even forming your own reading circle.

Many thanks, again, to the individual who subsidized the cost of the books so that we would not need to pay beyond \$25.00. Thanks to each and everyone of the Seekers who show up to share, to learn to reflect on new ways of looking at faith.

Blessings be.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Gaw

Ministry Area Reports:

Pastoral Care and In-Reach

Circle of Service: Ministry and Personnel

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is responsible for supporting ministry personnel in their roles and functions within the church as well as regularly reviewing staff working conditions, responsibilities, and financial compensation. Normally a yearly performance evaluation for staff is initiated by M&P but this has been suspended for the past two years as the impact of the Covid Pandemic altered workplace responsibilities and routines. During this time we were truly blessed to have both a minister and a secretary/music director whose skills and commitment allowed them to meet the new and varying demands of their positions in an evolving workplace.

Our invitation in December 2022 to the congregation to provide feedback for performance evaluations on the church staff resulted in thoughtful and informative feedback. The responses were positive, supportive and spoke of concern for the wellbeing of the staff in such stressful times. We met with Jennie as secretary and as music director and Reverend Lloyd as minister to discuss feedback, suggestions, work responsibilities and financial compensation. They were very receptive to any suggestions from the congregation and felt supported by the congregation.

During the last year we have forwarded recommendations to the Executive of the Congregation on financial compensation for the secretarial position, compassionate leave for the position of secretary and education leave for the minister. We have alerted the Executive of the Congregation that Reverend Lloyd has observed that the carpet in the church offices is in need of replacement. Also, his computer, a vital tool in his workday, is quickly aging and will need to be replaced within the next year.

We have had the honour and privilege to serve on this committee for the last seven years and have enjoyed our relationship with the staff of church for all of that time. The support from the governing bodies has been most welcome and appreciated. However, it is time for others to have the opportunity to contribute as members of this committee; to that end, we have forwarded our resignations to the Executive of the Congregation, effective 30 April 2023.

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen Bamford & Shirley Hopkins*

Circle of Service: Soul Sisters

In July 2019, a small group of women began a Contemplative Journey together. We have since met nearly every month for about 2-1/2 hours, either “live” or via ZOOM, to share one another’s spiritual journeys. We affectionately call ourselves The Soul Sisters. A loose format helps keep our meetings on track and moving gently forward. After an initial period of meditation, one person speaks from their heart while the others listen. This is followed by a time of silent contemplation. Then, each listener, in turn, shares their sense of what was just spoken and deeply taken in. Each speaking and sharing is held in a gentle atmosphere of deep listening and quiet. One may choose to speak or not. This is a spiritual journey, not to correct thinking or to offer advice, but to listen and reflect on one’s personal journey and those of the others within a frame of deep trust. Small groups of 4 or 5 work best, and we encourage others at SUC to consider forming their own contemplative journey group. Guidance is available for those who may wish to do so.

*Respectfully submitted by Janet Hammock
February 8, 2023*

Circle of Service: In-Reach

Although limited by pandemic restrictions in many ways, the in-reach committee, enthusiastically spearheaded by Diane and Dave Fullerton, continue to provide cards and phone messages filled with joyful song in honour of special events celebrated by members of the congregation including birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The kindness and generosity of all those who share “in-reach” within our congregation, and the joy and support that we bring to each other, are deeply moving.

Submitted in celebration of all those who provided in-reach this year by Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and conversation in partnership with Open Sky celebrated the opportunity to meet once again in person this year. A large and varied community meets weekly, with space and beverages supplied by the church, and snacks made by participants from open sky. The Senior's Sharing the Table grant enabled many other events and supplies, including crafting and shared meals in advent that were well-attended.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of this group by Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: Ushers

First of all, we would like to thank all who have served as greeters in 2022, a year that started off with online/Facebook services.

We welcomed Paula Sears, Luc and Sarah Poirier, Chrystal Schipper-Everill, Leanna and Annalee, and Stephen Poirier to our regular greeters! Those regular greeters this year were Eric and Margaret Tusz-King, Christy Watts, Elsie MacDonald, Edward Knuckles, Linda MacDonald, Dawn Estabrooks, Ron Sutherland and Jane Braedley, as well as myself and Dianne.

It has been great to be back with live services as well as the online. Much thanks must go to Reverend Lloyd Bruce and Organist Jennie Del Motte as well as Rowan White in navigating the online/virtual services and now back to live services.

I have received further volunteers available to take on this morning role, but there is always room for any who are interested in greeting for a Sunday or more.

Thanks goes to so many.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Oulton, Usher Coordinator

Group:
UCW

The Sackville UCW disbanded on Sunday, October 30th with a very meaningful service that was facilitated by Rev. Lloyd Bruce. Two former members of UCW passed away in 2022 - Janice MacKay on January 18th and Phyllis Carson on November 18th.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Allen

NOTE: UCW treasurer, Judith Colwell, indicated that the balance of the UCW funds held in trust by the church, along with a remaining \$6.65 in change, be donated to the Sackville Food Bank. This donation will be processed in early 2023 and appear on the 2023 financial statements.

~ Jennie Del Motte

Ministry Area Reports: Justice and Outreach

Circle of Service: Parents and Tots

Parents & Tots started up again in November 2022 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church under the direction of Nicola Keeling.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Allen

NOTE: Many members of our church community have and continue to faithfully volunteer with this outreach program. As a parent of young children, I have always been grateful for the support, encouragement, and much needed "quiet time" provided by members of this congregation.

~ Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: AA

Bruce and I became co-founders of The Sackville Serenity group of Alcoholics Anonymous. We have meetings every Saturday at 12pm. We have a significant number of members and people have been visiting us from outside the group. This meeting is an open meeting, meaning people can come whether they are an alcoholic. This allows people to try to find out if they have a problem or someone who has an alcoholic partner or family member and wants to see what we are all about.

*With Love and Respect,
Bruce Moore and Dianna Wright*

Circle of Service: Affirmation Team

Dr. Janet Hammock got some of us and built the Affirmation team. We work to educate people of what it means to be a LGBTQS+ in the community. We favor inclusion over exclusion. So, we are a group of people working together to let LGBTQS2+ community is welcome in our church. We represented the Church on Pride Parade over the summer. We gave out stickers, flags, and other relevant items such as buttons. We also put some Ally cards with the Pride flags or stickers in the community,

*With Love and Respect,
Bruce Moore and Dianna Wright*

Event: PIE Day

2022 PIE Day featured a hybrid online/in-person auction of pies of all varieties (fruit, chocolate, pizza, and otherwise) donated both by congregation members and local businesses. A joyful (if slightly chaotic) time was had by all, with the revenue of auctioned pies and other donated items going toward the support of Sackville United's ministry as a Public, Inclusive, Explicit, and affirming place of welcome. A number of donations in celebration of PIE day were also received.

Respectfully submitted by Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: Worship at the Drew

Rev. Lloyd and Jennie were able to partially resume monthly Sunday afternoon services at the Drew Nursing Home mid-year. Although partial or complete closures to the public meant that not all services could be held, we look forward to (safety-permitting) re-establishing a more regular ministry in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Jennie Del Motte

Event: Online Auction

In May we held the first Sackville United Church Online Auction. We had so many wonderful items donated by the congregation and buyers from all over Sackville, Aulac and Amherst participated.

I'd like to thank all those who donated items, bid, helped deliver, and shared the auction. There were some hiccups, of course, but overall I think it went well and people had fun. I think it was a great way to involve the community too.

Some fun facts:

- Approximately \$1600 was raised
- Top 5 items
 - Power lift chair \$100
 - Mitre saw \$80
 - Sewing machine \$80
 - Table \$60
 - Peanut butter pie \$51
- Most bids
 - Bicycle 11 bids (best last-minute bid to Jennie)
 - Steam mop - 9 bids (fun with Heather and Gary)
 - Kayak and canoe rental and lunch - 8 bids (most unique item)

*Respectfully submitted by
Chrystal Schipper-Everill*

NOTE: Many thanks go to Chrystal for the countless hours spent organizing, advertising, collecting, distributing, coordinating, communicating and so much more. This was a labour of love that was successful not just as a fundraiser, but in connecting the church to the wider community.

~ Jennie Del Motte

Event:

Christmas Bake Sale

A Bake Sale was held in the Sanctuary in December to coincide with the Sackville Moonlight Madness. Many members baked cookies, squares, cakes, etc. Thank you to those who baked, but a thank you to those who helped pack items and those who helped in the evening. The Sackville community responded with sales totalling approximately \$1,000.00.

Respectfully submitted by Elsie MacDonald

Outreach Project:

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day to celebrate social, economic, cultural, political achievements of women. The theme in 2022 was "Accelerate Equality".

Sackville United Church Community of Faith acknowledged and celebrated International Women's Day by gathering items such as shampoos, conditioners, feminine hygiene products, toothpastes, toothbrushes, deodorants, etc.

These items were then shared with Ensemble Moncton, Autumn House, Amherst, Sackville Food Bank, Mount Allison Food Bank and Open Sky Co-operative.

Thank all of you for your ongoing generosity.

Respectfully submitted by Elsie MacDonald

Outreach Project:

Tantramar Regional High School Pantry

Sackville United Church Community of Faith responded when informed that the High School Pantry needed to be restocked. Many food items and male and female hygiene products were gathered.

When told there is a need, our community of faith responds generously.

Respectfully submitted by Elsie MacDonald

Circle of Service: Sharing Space

God's Doors are Open Wide at Sackville United Shared Space Annual Report 2022

The shared use of our space was once again partially curtailed by Covid restrictions, but we continued to see more and more varied use of our church building as the year progressed.

Live Bait Theatre, who had permanent space on our upstairs floor, moved to another downtown location with ground floor frontage mid-year. We were saddened by the loss of this partnership. Live Bait did continue to share space with us for rehearsals and camps throughout the summer, and we hope to continue that relationship in future.

A revision of our shared space policy, which still allows for flexible use and optional suggested donations by non-profit groups, but which also budgets for commercial use of the church space was created and approved by the executive.

Here are some of the groups that have made use of our space this past year:

- A.A.
- Godly Play Maritimes
- Girl Guides of Canada
- Terrasonga
- Sunday Night Jam Session (originally started by Ernie Sears and Harold Miller)
- Sackville Meditation Group
- Sackville Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
- Sackville Food Bank
- Open Games Night
- Sackville Masonic Lodge (storage)
- "All Bodies are Good Bodies" Clothing Swap

Thank you to everyone who extends this hand of friendship outside of our walls and into our town and our world!

*Respectfully submitted by
Jennie Del Motte*

Special Grant Project: Seniors Sharing the Table

This goal of this project, in partnership with Open Sky Cooperative, was to address the isolation of seniors, as well as those on the margins (neurodiverse populations and folks suffering from mental health issues). Funded in part by the Government of Canada through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, the project was 11 months in scope and involved a mix of online and in-person activities. These included small-plot/community gardening through the spring and summer, followed by a community kitchen (cooking and meal-sharing) component throughout the fall and early winter. These two programs were underpinned by year-long, weekly gatherings for social time, sharing tea, coffee, snacks and music on Wednesday mornings at Sackville United Church. This weekly time together afforded opportunities for both learning and planning together.

The planning team consisted of six persons, the majority of whom were seniors from the Sackville United Church community and nineteen persons volunteered as part of the project offering mentoring support to Open Sky participants. More than a dozen Open Sky participants benefited from the mentorship of seniors as part of the Seniors Sharing the Table project. On average there were about forty to fifty persons positively impacted by the project each week.

The Seniors Sharing the Table project has concluded for this year and an evaluation is currently underway to determine the viability of continuing the project in future years. A final report, following the required guidelines and including the financial details of the project, has been submitted to the New Horizons for Seniors Program. A copy can be obtained from the Church Office.

*Respectfully submitted by
Lloyd Bruce and Sarah Poirier
for the Planning Team*

Ministry Area Reports:

Communication

Circle of Service: Communications

As online/hybrid worship has become a more permanent part of our regular worship, we continue to work toward the goal of “facilitating good communication both within the congregation and from the congregation to the larger community”. Sunday services are regularly joined live and/or watched after the fact by people across Canada; many of these people have personal connections to congregation members, but others have simply discovered our worship online and are now regular attendees.

Some new and continuing initiatives in the past year include:

- Continued “Monday Musings” and weekly announcement emails and website posts (monthly in the summer) to keep the congregation informed on upcoming events
- Hiring of Rowan White for technical assistance in running slides and camera views for livestreaming
- Running hybrid online/in-person meetings and fundraisers with effective 2-way communication
- New colour brochures for the church at the Sackville Tourist Bureau for visitors

Rev. Lloyd is invaluable in generating colourful and effective posters/pictures for church events and is our main source for operation and troubleshooting of our livestream technology. Jennie continues to run the sound board, with occasional consultation by Chris Meaney for setup, installation, and troubleshooting.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this part of our ministry and community.

Respectfully submitted by Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: Regional Representatives

I have been a member of Sackville United around 14 months ago. Bruce Moore asked me to join him in representing SUC and attended The Regional meeting for FLDWS over a series of courses and a wealth of knowledge to bring back to our congregation.

Bruce then invited me to volunteer at Open Sky. It is a community based charitable organization that provides transitional support for adults experiencing barriers to disability such as autism spectrum disorder or mental health challenges, transforming life and community. We intend to go back in Spring.

I recently joined the Seeker's Group which I will drag Bruce too!! There is much to learn and room to grow. Bruce and I are a team. We look forward to serving and are honored to do so.

*With Love and Respect,
Bruce Moore and Dianna Wright*

Ministry Area Reports:

Property and Finance

Circle of Service:

Trustees

Trustees 2022 Annual Report

Members: Shelley Beaver (Secretary), Rev. Lloyd Bruce, Bruce Moore,
Ron Sutherland (Chair)

The Trustees met four times during the year.

The Trustees continued to communicate with John Lafford about repair and relocation of the cemetery sign and the painting/signing of handicap parking spaces. Progress has been slow, and it is hoped that these projects can be completed in 2023.

An inventory of the contents in the Church was completed during the year. This is an important document for insurance purposes. The inventory will be reviewed updated as necessary by the Trustees every two years.

The Trustees met with Adam Dempsey of Scotia Wealth Management in February to review the performance of the investment fund.

A decision was made by the Trustees to realize \$20,000 in accumulated capital gains from the Dixon Fund. These funds remain in the investment account but are now designated as unrestricted funds.

Late in the year, the United Church of Canada launched a self-insurance program aimed at providing United Church ministries with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage. Property insurance premiums for Sackville United Church have been increasing dramatically during the past few years and it is hoped that this program might provide some savings. A building appraisal will need to be completed to receive a quote for coverage under the new program. It is anticipated that progress on this front will be made in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Sutherland (Chair)

Circle of Service: Property & Maintenance Group

Report to the Annual Meeting 2023

After a brief sabbath from being on this group, I offered again in the fall of 2022. One condition: that an actual committee be formed with members who were skilled and keen on doing the needed repairs. I wish to express my thanks to Charlie Trenholm and Chris Forstall for signing up and to Jonathan Harper for being readily available for all things plumbing.

As I was not involved prior to October, I will leave the early year details to the Executive. I do know the roof, particularly where the original building is joined by the more recent building has leaked and the roofers have us on their list. As well the locks on the York Street side are on the waiting list for replacement or repair.

Our thanks to Austin Ibbitson for his years of service as janitor. And we welcome Charlie and Sue Trenholm to a time as the janitor. This arrangement will be revisited in the late spring.

As close as I can determine this building marks its centennial in 2024. As such it will continue to require regular maintenance. On the list (in addition to the roof and locks) is a decision around the flooring in the offices.

Again, I offer my thanks for your support.

Blessings.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Gaw

Circle of Service: Cemetery Committee

Sackville United Church Cemetery Committee Annual Report 2022

The cemetery committee did not meet in 2022, so there is nothing new to report.

*Respectfully submitted by
Phyllis Stopps*

NOTE: Concerns raised in the 2021 report (snowplows potentially damaging stones, cemetery sign in need of re-installation) are still ongoing. ~Jennie Del Motte

Circle of Service: Stewardship Convenor's Report

Stewardship comes in many forms - our time, our talents, our gifts, and more.

Looking back at 2022, I realize just how many people contribute to our Church's Stewardship: pie bakers and sanctuary decorators, those who help move chairs and those who help start conversations, from planning and running fundraisers (Chrystal, Elsie, Lloyd, and more!) to the offerings that keep our church running through PAR, e-transfers, and more.

We have much to celebrate: the beauty and visibility of the Nativity scene outside our church at Christmastime, our ongoing connection with Open Sky, our Book Clubs and small groups, and countless others.

To each of you, in all the ways you are part of our church family, I want to say thanks for all you do.

Respectfully submitted by Frank Oulton

Report: Rockport United Church

Rockport United Church 2022 Annual Report

The Rockport United Church did not submit an overly detailed 2021 Annual Report, as not much happened at the church with the exception of paying the insurance premium and keeping the lawn mowed.

I am happy to report that in December of this year we finally held a service – the first since Covid-19 started. There is not much else to report. The insurance premium has been paid for the year (which saw another increase). The premium is not \$236.

Ken Tower looked after having the lawn mowed.

The portable toilet that we were using which was the property of the Rockport Community Association had been stolen when the Community Hall was broken into in 2021. Nothing has been done yet to replace it. It was always kept at the hall during the winter months in the heated bathroom and had been taken from there.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Read, Trustee

Report:

Rockport United Church Financial Report

Rockport United Church 2022 Annual Financial Report

Balance on Hand January 1, 2022		\$7075.69
REVENUE:		
Collection – church services	\$175.00	
Donations & memorials	\$100.00	
Fundraising		
Miscell. (bank interest)	\$0.67	
		\$275.67
EXPENSES:		
Minister/Lay Preacher		
Minister’s Travel Expense	\$40.00	
Worship supplies/expenses	\$12.25	
Insurance	\$236.00	
Miscell. (bank charges/advertising)	\$11.25	
		(\$299.50)
YEAR-END BALANCE		
		\$7051.86
RBC Account	\$6960.50	
Cash on Hand	\$91.40	
Penny round down	(\$0.04)	
Grand Total	\$7051.86	

All balances as of January 31, 2023

Submitted by Nancy J. Read, Trustee

Report: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report to the Annual Meeting of Sackville United Congregation 2022 Annual Report

2022 was, despite a net loss on the income statement, a relatively stable year financially. We saw a continued modest increase in regular offerings along with the Seniors Sharing the Table Grant (in partnership with Open Sky). These two things meant that no money was taken from the SUC ScotiaWealth investment portfolio to cover operating expenses despite SUC's first full year as a single-point pastoral charge and the additional financial burden that goes with that.

2022 also saw the second of the largest asset transfers (\$25000) from the outstanding Lafford mortgage, of which only one more remains. The executive and entire congregation are continuously looking for ways forward and how we will deal with this deficit in future income.

We have continued our partnership with Visions United Church to undertake a mutual review of books. This partnership is enormously beneficial and I always look forward to learning with Visions United.

I want to thank Jennie Del Motte for her knowledge and kindness. I thank her for her commitment and diligent work in carrying out her responsibilities. Without her, I simply could not do my job as treasurer.

Respectfully submitted by Christal Schipper-Everill

NOTE: Many thanks go to Chrystal for her continued faithful service as Treasurer. She is a delight to work for and with!

~Jennie Del Motte

Report: 2022 SUC (SPC) Financial Statements

- **2022 Balance Sheet**
- **2022 Income Statement**
- **2022 Investment Report**
- **2022 Explanatory Notes on Financial Statement**

- **2023 Proposed Budget**