



2022 ANNUAL
REPORT
CENTRAL
UNITED CHURCH
PORT COLBORNE,
ON



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AGENDA

Words of Welcome, territorial acknowledgment

Opening Prayer

In Memoriam

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

Election of Chair and Secretary for meeting

Meeting procedures for voting

Approval of the Agenda

Acceptance of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting, February 13, 2022 as printed

Approval of Annual Reports

Motion: All 2022 reports, except the Treasurer's Report be accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report

Presentation of the 2023 Budget

Approval of Proposed Budget for 2023

Report from the Nominating Committee

Election of Council Members

Resolution re Borrowing

Appointment of Auditors for 2023

Other New Business

Closing Remarks

Adjournment Motion: "That this meeting adjourn, and the Church Council and its Executive be given power to act in all necessary matters until the next Annual Meeting to be held early in 2024, date to be set by Church Council.

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Council chair, Barclay Walker welcomed everyone to our virtual annual meeting immediately following the morning Worship service and the meeting was called to order.

The 2021 Memoriams had been read during the Worship service by DLM Heather Filson.

BUSINESS MEETING

Chris Wilson nominated Barclay Walker and Bev Roseboom to act as chair and secretary respectively for this meeting. Seconded by Sandra Frame. Carried.

Moved by Amanda Bell, seconded by Sandra Frame, that adherents be allowed to vote on the business of this annual meeting. Carried.

Barclay Walker outlined our commitments to Community Safety as printed on the meeting agenda.

Chris Wilson moved, seconded by Lesley Rickard, that the minutes of the annual meeting held February 14, 2021 be accepted as printed in the annual report. Carried.

Donna Tuck moved, seconded by Lesley Rickard, that all 2021 reports with the exception of the Treasurers report be accepted as printed in the annual report. Carried.

Sandra Frame and Chris Wilson presented the treasurers report and answered questions pertaining to the report. Jayme-Lynn Lillie was introduced as the new church treasurer. Sandra reported that financially our church has been "hard hit" over 2021, although there have been significant fundraising activities, an increase in PAR donations, without in person worship weekly collection has been low. Expenses have been reduced and "wish" projects have been temporarily delayed due to the low income. Jim Brown questioned the increasing insurance and hydro costs in a building that sits empty mostly. His concerns were answered that these are expenses out of our control. Thermostats are set low and unnecessary lights are turned off. Insurance premiums are increasing everywhere due to global warming and catastrophic weather related events over the past few years. Our church needs to be insured for the replacement value keeping in mind the value of our stained glass windows and organ.

Further on the treasurers report, Cheryl Brown asked for clarification as to how the Regional assessment is calculated. This amount is set by the Regional Council based on our membership roll and our annual givings. The Regional council has been a tremendous help to Sandra over the past two years to navigate the paperwork for wage subsidies etc.

Rev. Alison introduced the small group discussion. Input is needed from our congregation to complete and submit our mission statement. Attendees were put into small groups to discuss 1)Where are you from? 2) Thinking about the community of

faith, where does it hurt? 3) Again, thinking about the community of faith, what do you need? and the final discussion point was "Where do we go from here?". A representative from each group shared answers with the larger group after a few minutes of small group discussion.

There was significant discussion on our pledge and covenant to the Mission and Service fund of the United Church of Canada. The goal for 2021 had been \$11,500. As our church struggles financially, there was concern as to whether we can maintain our level of support while keeping our church operational. Barclay Walker moved that we pledge \$11,500 to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Seconded by Amanda Bell. Carried.

Chris Wilson presented the 2022 budget as printed in the annual report. No major repairs are expected and hopefully a Stewardship Campaign will be successful. Chris Wilson moved that the budget be accepted, seconded by Sandra Frame. Carried.

Darlene Sherk thanked everyone who has stepped forward to fill the vacancies on various committees. There is still a need for a Vice Chair of Council. Jayme-Lynn Lillie has joined the Finance Committee; Tim Barnai is chair of the Worship committee; Wendy Davies is chair of Mission and Outreach; and the Ministry and Personnel committee consists of Lesley Rickard (chair), Brian Haley, Jill Jackson, Lloyd Roseboom. Darlene asked three times if there were any further nominations. Not aware of any further nominations, Darlene moved that the nomination report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Barclay Walker. Carried.

Chris Wilson moved that church council be authorized to borrow up to \$50,000.00 for the operation of the church if and when this becomes necessary. Seconded by Sandra Frame. Carried.

Marilyn Robinson is willing to continue to audit our books. Moved by Sandra Frame, seconded by Lesley Rickard that Marilyn Robinson remain in this position. Carried.

Sandra Frame thanked Barclay Walker on behalf of council for his hard work and guidance over the past year.

In his closing remarks, Barclay thanked Doug and Sandra Frame for their dedication to the positions they have held on council for many years. He thanked the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for their commitment and to the new members of this committee for coming forward. Barclay thanked the staff for their hard work during a challenging year, to Salma for her IT support over the year, to all council members and to everyone who attended the annual meeting.

Rev Alison and DLM Heather Filson closed our meeting with prayer.

Lesley Rickard moved that this meeting adjourn, and the church council and its executive be given power to act in all necessary matters until the next annual meeting to be held early in 2023, date to be set by church council.

MINISTER'S REPORT

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Beatitudes begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Known and loved, they teach the contrast between human nature and Christian principles. I have read recently a way of reading them as the "Be-attitudes," how Jesus illumines our understanding of his message. The Beatitudes are kind of an attitude-check that leads us to ask the question: What is the secret to being 'blessed?' We know it is not fame, fortune and material pursuits. Jesus claims; it comes through surrendering our spirit, our grief, our strengths and our weaknesses to God's love and grace. It is found through extending mercy and peace to others, through living out a commitment to righteousness in the face of obstacles. Our modern culture seems intent on leading us away from community to a self reliance on the individual. Being alone taught us that it is in community we thrive. It may be that we are not ready to join our community in person, and that is okay, there are many ways to stay connected and to receive the support you need.

On the pages of our report there are stories of blessing and how we are blessed as a community. Slowly, and with mindfulness of our duty of care to one another, our face to face worship is growing, and certainly our youth are expressing themselves to our congregation in many ways, through the choir, Summer Adventure Camp, Sunday worship and Central casting. A little one offered the land acknowledgement during worship, memorized, confident the way he learned at school. This indeed is a blessing to our church.

Our council with Barclay Walker as Chair piloted us through rough waters, and difficult decisions. There is much to be done, and much is being done. It will take energy and navigation which you have proven to be successful in the past and will again. I write this with just days before my retirement. It has been a joy to be a part of your community and I offer you every Blessing for your future. Be strengthened by "Be-attitudes "and blessings will abound and confidence toward the future.

Rev. Alison Chisholm Nicholson

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

On behalf of the church council and leaders, thank you. Thank you for supporting our community of faith through your generous giving. Our congregation is the blessed recipient of your donated time and talent: singing in the choir, providing a funeral luncheon, serving at coffee hour after worship, organizing a yard sale and clothing boutique, running a silent auction, making chocolates, preparing and serving meals for Food with Friends, creating beautiful prayer shawls, reading scripture, and providing financial support to our community of faith.

2022 was the year we began our return to the church building. Our AGM in February was virtual. A few weeks later in March, the Program Committee offered a take-out dinner at the same time as the Spring Silent auction pick up for the lucky bidders was occurring. We were able to worship together, in person at Easter. We received a grant from the government that allowed us to hire two summer students to organize and run a very successful Vacation Bible Camp. In the fall, the Beavers and Cubs resumed their activities. Other community partners like TOPS and the quilters have happily returned to our building. The choir and singing became part of our worship services. Our volunteers hosted the community through the Clothing Boutique. Our neighbours joined with us at the Truth and Reconciliation service as we share in the search for truth and justice promised through reconciliation.

As I write this report, Rev. Alison Nicholson will be retiring soon. I take this opportunity to thank her deeply for her spirituality, vision, and leadership while I have been the Chair of the Council. I have appreciated the conversations we have had about faith, the United Church, her vision for what we might be able to become, and her devotion to social justice for all.

Thank you to our valued staff. Heather Filson, for her dual duties as church administrator and our designated lay minister; Darlene Oord, for sharing her talent and gifts of leading the choirs and music; Carrie Stevens and Steve Tridor for their efforts to keep our church building safe, clean and in proper repair; Jayme-Lynn Lilley for taking on the role of treasurer this past year and supporting the financial work of the church.

Over the last six months I have attended a variety of workshops sponsored by the United Church of Canada and have been reflecting on a word that has gripped many communities of faith – anxiety.

2022 has been a year of challenges for all communities: higher cost of food, living and transportation, the increased need for social supports and most Christian faith-based communities are struggling with empty seats, fewer donors and fewer volunteers, changes in lay leadership, and changes in ministerial leaders.

Where did everyone go after March 2020?

We are in the midst of a major religious shift. People have created new routines, sought out God in new places and new ways. Statistics Canada reports:

“In 2021, more than 19.3 million people reported a Christian religion, or just over half of the Canadian population (53.3%). However, this percentage is down from 67.3% in 2011 and 77.1% in 2001.

Catholics are the largest Christian denomination in Canada, with 10.9 million people (29.9%) in 2021. The United Church (3.3%) and the Anglican Church (3.1%), two other Christian denominations, each had more than 1 million people in Canada. Orthodox Christians (1.7%), Baptists (1.2%), and Pentecostals and other Charismatics (1.1%) were the other Christian denominations most often reported.

In 2021, just under 2.8 million people, or 7.6% of the population, reported being Christian without further indication of a specific denomination, double the figure from 2011 (1.4 million).

With the exception of Orthodox Christians and people who simply reported being Christian, the proportion of affiliation in every Christian denomination decreased from 2011 to 2021.”

This information confirms our experiences at Central United are mirroring the world the around us.

There are challenges before us. We are not meeting our yearly budget. We have volunteers for projects, but our leadership pool is dwindling and many committees remain without members or leaders. Our ministerial staff is changing. All of this makes us feel anxious.

God continues to call to us to be the church. In 2023, we will be listening to hear God’s voice. God is calling to us to tell our story. We need to learn where our strengths are, to celebrate and share good news, and tell our story. *“Our story is not a timeline – it is about the spirit of community, what motivates us, where we find meaning, our hopes and fears and gifts.”* – Dianna Butler Bass

2023 will be a year with opportunities, learning, celebrating, and reflection. It will be a year for us to listen for God’s direction. Thank you for the support and encouragement you have extended to me during the last three years. It is my time to now step down from role of the Chair of Council as we move towards our future.

Yours in Christ,

Barclay Walker

DLM REPORT

As 2022 has come to a close, we have seen many changes, in the world, our community, our families and here at Central. Some changes, like the birth of a baby are welcome celebrations. Other changes, like the passing of a loved one, are hard on our heart and soul. Yet, as Christians, we turn to God to give thanks, ask for support, grace and mercy, or just to talk through a situation when no one is available as a sounding board. How has this affected my role here at Central? Let me fill you in.

Central United applied for and was given a **Canada Summer Jobs Grant**. We had 2 students work for 30 hours per week for 6 weeks. Benjamin Walker was hired as our Summer Adventure Camp Director and Ava Laurin as our Tech Director. These two students worked well together and independently. I cannot say enough about these two young people, their strong work ethics, fun personalities and enthusiasm. For me, the stress of orchestrating a summer camp was alleviated with the hiring of these two students. They were a blessing to our Community of Faith. Please read Ben's report below.

Pastoral Care & Visitation has taken on many looks since the start of covid. During this past year there has been fewer phone call connections and more in-person. Other than a difficult time accessing those in our area hospitals, we did what we could to visit. Many people were still cautious, and Rev. Alison and I have been very conscious and respectful of this. As the year progressed, we had fewer barriers as those multi-vaccinated people were feeling confident and wanting to see our faces. With masks firmly in place, we started to venture out again. May 2023 see more visits with even fewer barriers.

Central Casting, Central's own Sunday School, returned in full strength and has a full roster this year. From toddlers in the nursery, up to high school students, Sundays are a busy, loud, and wonderful time downstairs. We wouldn't want it any other way!! It's wonderful to have so many young people listening to the stories of the Bible and ask questions about what happened in those days compared to today. As we continue to walk through the Bible with these young people and see them try to wrap their heads around the stories, we see their hearts grow each week with the love that God has put there. All of our young people are a blessings to us all.

In the summer, Central United was able to offer **Summer Adventure Camp** for 5 days in the summer. The report, written by Benjamin Walker is below this report.

Central's Youth group is small at the moment. We hold youth group meetings a few times a month and as with a lot of groups, there is an everchanging cycle of attendance. In the past couple of years, we've had people move on to college or university, or they've moved with their family out of the province.

In the past couple of years, our youth group has been given the opportunity to fundraise by picking up clay skeets at the Port Colborne Conservation Club. This was a twice a month event. We'd walk around the conservation property and pick up the skeets that hadn't been hit and stomp the pieces of the broken ones so the lawn mower wouldn't hit them. It was fun in the nice weather and a challenge in the winter months. In November we were able to donate \$800 to the General Fund of the church to help with expenses. This is the youth group's way of giving back to those who've supported us. In September we declined the invitation to resume this fundraiser as our numbers are low and attendance no longer guaranteed. Although I didn't mind going out occasionally by myself to do this project, it wasn't something that I felt I could carry on through the winter.

So for 2023, we'll concentrate on those who attend, their questions on how to deal with life while walking with Christ in today's world while dealing with social media.

2022 saw the return of **The Holy Hands Puppets**. In September the puppets were welcomed with loud applause at the Wainfleet Fall Fair on the Friday morning. This is when the local schools bring their students in to see all agricultural contributions Wainfleet provides to this area.

We've emerged from the restricted, unvaccinated covid days, so, now what? Where do we go from here? What have we learned about ourselves through the past couple of years. What have we learned as a Community of Faith? What do we continue to do well? What can we work on? Where do we go from here? For me, this past year has taught me to let my faith wash over me on a daily basis. To push past any anxiety and move forward, to visit either by phone or on a doorstep. To always have a mask at the ready. To continue to connect with as many people as possible, and to exhibit faith on the scariest of days.

As we maneuver through 2023 and beyond, may we, the community of faith at Central United, strive to work together to make Him known. May we walk as closely as we can to Jesus' footprints and may we support, lift up and show love to each other and the world around us.

In His service

Heather Filson

DLM, Office Administrator

2022 SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP REPORT

The 2022 Central United Church Summer Adventure Camp ran from August 15 until August 18. The theme of this year's camp was "Holyword", adapted from the *Group's Holyword Studios VBS*. The camp had a focus on youth Christian education through interactive lessons, teaching biblical stories while encouraging engagement through the dramatic arts.

The camp was split into two parts, the morning camp, and the afternoon camp. The morning camp focused on Christian education, which ran from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM. The afternoon camp focused on making new connections, running from 11:30 AM until 4:30 PM. Over 30 children registered for the camp, with more than half staying for the afternoon.

In the morning camp, the day began with Bible study. The five main stories told were: baby Moses was rescued from the Nile (Exodus 1:1 - 2:10), God protected the Israelites from the nine plagues in Egypt (Exodus 7:1 - 10:29), God spared the Israelites during Passover and split the Red Sea (Exodus 11:1 - 15:21), the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 27:11 - 28:7), and the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47). Next, there was a transition into songs to have the campers moving, connecting, and engaging with one another. After the song, the campers were provided with a time to have a snack, provided by the church. Once snack was over the groups would rotate through the science, craft and game activities that were entertaining and exciting and related to the daily lesson. At the end of the day, campers reunited in the Sanctuary for a review of what they learned that day. That concluded the morning camp. The afternoon camp began with lunch brought by the campers. Then it was divided into four sections: downtime, active time, crafts, and science. The activities were fun for the campers, with leniency in the schedule for campers to have more selection over what they may want to do that day. Activities such as watching movies, baking treats, going to the local public park, making paintings, and learning about different science experiments are all ways that we had fun in Central United's afternoon camp.

Thank you to all volunteers and donors to Central United Church's Summer Adventure Camp for giving their time and support to help make this camp possible.

A special thank you goes out to Designated Lay Minister Heather Filson, and Technology Director, Ava Laurin, for all of the help with setting up, creative ideas, and production of the camp prior to the camp beginning.

It was a pleasure to work with all of you and to provide this experience to the campers.

Ben Walker
Camp Director

2022 CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS REPORT

Baptisms

Harlow Carolian Traver – September 11th

Deaths/Funerals

Jim Cloughley – January 14th

Joel Longfellow – January 19th

Bonnie Hemauer – February 3rd

Esther Hillier – February 21st

Kurt Rauscher – March 19th

Wilma Crosby – March 25th

Karen Powers – April 10th

Landy (Elizabeth) O'Donnell – April 21st

James Marko – April 28th

Barbara Rauscher – May 28th

Nancy Grant – June 25th (D.O.D. December 4, 2021)

Alice Morgan – July 6th

Betty Jo Fraracci – July 12th (D.O.D. February 9, 2021)

Shirley Kempley – September 3rd

Aubrey Millard – September 18th

Alice Barker – September 30th

Betty Haslam – October 2nd

Chase Fowler-Taylor – October 12th

Bert Johns – November 14th

Eleanor Beckett – November 16th

Transfer of Membership

To Central

Linda Refling
Marsha & Fred Warren

From Central

Hannah Davis

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	* Barclay Walker
Vice Chair	*
Past Chair	* Darlene Sherk
Secretary	* Bev Roseboom
Treasurer	* Jayme-Lynn Lilley

Note: *Denotes member of council.

Committees may consist of additional appointed members who are members at large and who may serve for an indefinite term of office.

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Chris Wilson (Chair)

<i>Treasurer</i>	*Jayme-Lynn Lilley
	Tony Roy
	Marie Feduck

WORSHIP	* Tim Barnai (Chair)
	Emily Wilson
	Ellyanna Roseboom

MISSION & OUTREACH	* Wendy Davies (Chair)
	Victoria Grenier (Youth World Vision Liaison)
	Laurie Haley

PROGRAM & FAITH DEVELOPMENT	*Marie Feduck (Co-Chair)
	*Mary Jane Bankes (Co-Chair)
	Wendy Davies
	Carrie Dunn
	Gail Etling
	Darlene Sherk
	Linda Traver

PROPERTY	* Ron Jackson (Chair)
Doug Frame	
	John Simon

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	Lesley Rickard (Chair)
	Brian Haley
	Jill Jackson
	Lloyd Roseboom

PASTORAL CARE & VISITATION	Carrie Dunn (Cookies & Christ Coordinator)
	Jennifer Parker (Portal Village)
	Nancy Sloan (Northland Pointe)

UCW	*Vicki Fretz
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PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Snow Clearing and Salting of Steps

K M Jones Landscaping and Snow Plowing has been contracted to provide snow clearing and salting for this winter. The cost is \$367.25 (\$325.00 + GST) per month, due on the 1st of each month (December through March).

This is a small local company and there are some issues with getting the monthly payment out to the company by the first of the month, as they don't seem to issue invoices sufficiently in advance. However, this is being dealt with as best as we can, and there is no apparent risk that they would deny us service.

The contract will have to be revisited (and renewed) in October of this year.

2. Fire Detection and Alarm System

Annual issue:

The required annual inspection of the fire detection and alarm system was performed on November 7th. Some minor issues were discovered and have been rectified. Some of the fire extinguishers required testing to maintain their certification. This was completed as of early January.

The next annual inspection will be due in October/November of this year.

3. Elevator

Ongoing issue:

The elevator has become quite old, and reliability is questionable at best. For some time now, the company performing maintenance on the elevator has been advising us to replace the operating hydraulic pump set entirely.

To this end, Hal-Brant (the company which has been providing inspection and maintenance service) has provided us with a quotation for an updated replacement of the operating pump set ... approximately \$9,200 and will take approximately two months for the job to be done.

The church has accepted the proposal, and Hal-Brant will have received a deposit cheque (25% deposit, balance on completion) by early February and will have started sourcing material and components for manufacture. The expectation is that the new pump set will be installed some time in April.

4. Downspout at the back of the Church

Possibly an ongoing issue:

One of the downspouts at the back of the church was overflowing during a rainstorm at the end of August, and some of the water entered Room Number 2 around the window. Caulking around the window has been re-done, and Inspection showed no blockage in the drain line and that the downspout has not become detached. If it was that the rainfall exceeded the capacity of the eave's trough and downspout, then some further

remediation might be required to redirect water away from the window and surrounding wall area.

5. Ceiling Tiles, Walls, and Carpet in the Bell Tower Staircase

Ongoing issue:

During the blizzard event early this month, a significant amount of windblown snow collected inside the bell tower. This became a problem when the snow began to melt and dripped through ceiling tiles and down wall panels rather than running down the (small and inadequate) drain pipe in the floor of the bell tower.

The only way of preventing this from happening again (admittedly blizzards are not common events), would be to completely re-construct the floor in the bell tower so that it is impervious and that the entire floor slopes toward the drain.

This would be a major undertaking and is not likely to be done any time soon.

6. Leaky Supply Hose to Toilet in Women's Washroom

Ongoing issue:

More of an annoyance than an issue; the water supply hose to one of the toilets in the downstairs women's washroom drips very slowly. The leaky connection has been coated with a sealant to order to stop or at least reduce the leak. Currently a small bucket collects the drips.

7. Miscellaneous Items

Several small miscellaneous items have been dealt with over the past year ... dripping taps, rocking toilets, burnt out exterior lightbulb, etc.

These types of things will continue to happen and be dealt with as simply as possible on an "as needed" basis.

8. New Flooring in the Sanctuary

No change in status:

The assessment is that the condition of the existing carpet should be good enough to stay in place for another year when hopefully the financial situation will improve and the church can remain open. In the meantime, any soiled spots can be cleaned by a professional cleaner.

Ron Jackson – Interim Property Chair

Music Ministry Report -2022

This year was a varied arrangement of musical endeavours. We began with none, transitioned to talented members consenting to record solos, duets and trios, to then actually enjoying choir practices to build repertoire, and commit to contributing regularly to music ministry in worship services. The assistance of Carrie Dunn, Len Koudijs and Lorne Kembley and Barclay Walker is so appreciated for the recording efforts. Summer vocal soloists attended the summer services, and we transitioned into this addition to our worship. The Bell Choir has been absent from worship, as we are now hoping to find new members. Gratitude is heartfelt for three gentlemen who have assisted me with our Yamaha piano and our beloved Casavant organ supply - John Wilson, Jim Brown and Dr. David Salanki. John Wilson's piano work, playing selected Piano-Organ duets with me has been so appreciated.

In September, our Youth, Teen and Senior Choirs were re-formed to be a very important, meaningful addition to our church life. We are very blessed hearing the messages they bring to our church family in song. Each choir member is treasured. During our covid years, our choir family has had to endure the loss of Margaret Kerr, Joel Longfellow, Landy O'Donnell and Kurt Rauscher. We are forever grateful that we had them with us for so many years. Our Choir made memorial donations in their memory. These have truly been difficult years. We have discontinued Spring and Christmas dinners, as well as our popular monthly "goodie nights".

The Youth Choir children, so keen and delightful, are thankful for our Choir Mother, Mrs. Erin Shisler, who attentively assists with morning organization. I am so lucky to have Erin's help.

Our beautiful Teen Choir consists of members from our Youth Choir. University has received several of our former members. We are lucky to have these now growing young people with us. How important it is for them to feel part of a loving church family! Choir work in the church has been changing over the years. No longer can Youth and Teens sustain a weekly practice schedule. Life goes at a pace with involvement into so many areas, we all have to coordinate our priorities. We are forced to be more flexible, and I thank all parents and family members for their efforts to keep our choirs established. We know the Holy Spirit is in this with us.

The Senior Choir commits to weekly practices, and this is a dedication. Some members have moved away from our midst, but we are thankful for God's goodness--we are rich with several new members joining this year!! Our Central United family expresses appreciation for the Choir's attention to message and musicality.

Once again, we will participate in the Port Colborne Festival Of The Arts Choir Evening, held in our own sanctuary in May. This has been suspended for two years. Please attend to support and enjoy.

Let us all work together in 2023 as a singing, hopeful, trusting Church Community.

Darlene Oord -Director of Music and Organist

'NO SO' SILENT AUCTION REPORT

The Silent Auction Team of 4 continues to work hard to contribute to the church's financial deficit. Over the last 3 years, we have contributed over \$30,000 thanks to all the generous donations and our loyal fan-based buyers. It is a lot of work, but the team genuinely loves our church and church family and wants to see our church exist and thrive, so we willing give of our time and energy. We have already started on the spring-summer auction due to run in late March. We again have some lovely gifts, furniture, outdoor décor, and glassware. Please continue to support this crucial fundraiser to ensure our work is not in vain and we can all be proud of our endeavour to keep our church alive.

Darlene Sherk, Jan Wilson, Connie Ford, Cheryl Leroy-Audette

MISSION AND OUTREACH

It's been another busy year for Mission and Outreach. A big 'Thank You' is extended to the many helping hands, donations, and support for making all of these outreach activities happen. Each and every one of your contributions help to strengthen the health and wellbeing of both our local and worldwide communities.

MISSION & SERVICE FUND

M & S is promoted weekly in the bulletin, donations through weekly offerings and special offerings. The chocolatiers donated \$400 to the United Church of Canada's Ukraine crisis as part of their Easter fundraiser.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Special offerings were collected at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas this year. Funds from the offerings supported the M&S fund, Port Cares and Food with Friends. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.

WORLD VISION

Central continues to sponsor one child, Rahim, from Bangladesh. Rahim is currently in grade 5 and lives with his parents, brother, and 2 sisters. He is in good health and likes to play Football. Donations from used book sales help to fund Rahim's sponsorship. Wendy Davies is now the contact from Central, taking over for Carol Suess. Thanks Carol for your many years of dedication to his ministry!

FOOD DRIVE

A food drive was held at Central with donations of food and money given to Port Cares. Thank you everyone for your generous donations!

NIAGARA MINISTERIAL

Central assisted Niagara Ministerial's outreach through donations of Shampoo/ Conditioner to migrant workers. Thank you everyone for your generous donations!

FOOD WITH FRIENDS

In partnership with other local churches, hot, nutritious and plentiful meals are distributed to community members every Tuesday evening at the Guild Hall. A typical meal (served by Central volunteers on Jan 10, 2023) is ham and turkey slices, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, coleslaw, dinner roll, cookies, a small chocolate bar, banana and bottle of water. Since Covid, meals have been take-out and distributed outside. During inclement weather guests can wait inside the Guild Hall, rather than lining up outside. Under Julia Gibson's faithful leadership, a team of dedicated Central volunteers take their turn to prepare and serve meals the second Tuesday of every month. On other days of the week, take-out meals are distributed at the Port Cares Reach Out Centre. Prior to the Covid pandemic, Food With Friends operated from September to April each year. The effects of Covid brought on a growing community need and Food With Friends started (and continues) to operate year round. Before Covid 50-60 meals were prepared for dining in but since Covid and take-out they are now preparing 100 meals each week to meet the growing demand. Sometimes that is not even enough, but no one is ever turned away for lack of food. They are compensated in other ways. This is not easy with escalating food prices and the limited budget. The guideline for spending is \$250 for each Tuesday meal. \$400 of profits from the Easter chocolate sales were given to Food With Friends to help offset this growing need. Guests never cease to say 'Thank You' for their meal and are very appreciative of whatever the meal consists of - it is a pleasure to serve them. Thank you so much Julia and her team of volunteers for their hard work and dedication to this very important and worthwhile community outreach initiative.

WINTER WEAR DRIVE

We received an extremely generous response to our winter wear drive. The donated new socks and chocolate goodies were distributed to citizens who attended the Food With Friends Christmas dinner on Dec., 13, 2022. Used hats, mitts, scarfs and outerwear were put on a table for people to help themselves. The people who attended were very appreciative of these outreach efforts. Any new hats, mitts, scarfs, PJ's etc. were donated to Port Cares for distribution in their Christmas community outreach initiatives. We can't thank members of Central United enough for supporting this very worthwhile and much needed outreach activity.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION VIGIL

Central United held its second annual Truth and Reconciliation Candlelight Vigil on Friday September 30 @ 6:30 pm. Musical duo Union and Kay performed at this service.

HARVEST FEST

Central set up a booth again this year at Harvest Fest. This was a good opportunity to engage with the Port Colborne community and increase community awareness of church's initiatives.

GARAGE SALE

Under Kathy McQuire's dedicated leadership, another successful garage sale was held on August 13, 2022. This was a good opportunity for community members to see the church in action! Proceeds from the sale went to Central's General Operating Fund. Another sale is being planned for this summer, dates TBD. Thanks to everyone for the generous donations and all the volunteers who organized, set up, worked, or took down the sale. What a team!

CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

Kathy McQuire and her team of hardworking and faithful volunteers hosted 2 clothing boutiques again this year. They were held on the last Saturday in April, and the last Saturday in September. These are the dates community members who attend the boutique have come to expect so 2 boutiques are being planned again this year on the same weekends. Thank you to everyone who donated, sorted and worked at the boutique. The people who attend always seem genuinely appreciative of this outreach initiative.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER

Central's Chocolatiers have been at work making their popular chocolate barks and special seasonal molded items in 2022 for Easter and the Christmas season. The chocolates, hand made in our church kitchen, have been available after church services, on silent auction pickup days, and during intermission at the Harbour Lite Singers 'concert. This endeavour has become a good source of revenue for the Mission and Outreach committee, who have turned 198 pounds of chocolate (plus other ingredients) into a profit of \$2,591.74 for mission and outreach projects. The Easter profits were allocated equally to Food With Friends and the Ukraine Crisis (through the United Church of Canada.) It has yet to be decided where the Christmas profits will be allocated. With so many people in our local community struggling we are leaning towards designating it to a local organization / initiative. Another chocolate fundraiser is planned for Easter 2023. Thank you to Jane Danch-Roy and her team of volunteers for turning these tasty treats into profits to support outreach activities!

Respectfully submitted by
Wendy Davies
Chair of Mission & Outreach

PROGRAM REPORT

Program Committee hosted a very well received takeout pasta dinner in the spring. We hope that this will resume being an annual event now that covid restrictions have been lifted. Our Christmas cookie orders were also very successful again this year. Many thanks to the bakers who helped us out. We were able to offer a larger variety and it also took some of the pressure off the committee to not have to bake as many cookies. We extend our thanks to everyone who supported our fundraisers.

Submitted by

Marie Feduck and Mary Jane Bankes - Committee co-chairs

LIBRARY REPORT

During coffee hour on Sundays, it is so nice to see the children running into the library, plopping on the bean bags and grabbing a book to look at or read. Hopefully, as life continues to get back to some normalcy, more children will be back to church and enjoy this experience. For the adults, during Covid I purchased a few novels by authors that are enjoyed. I sincerely thank Alison who kindly donated adult and children's books to the library. Please take advantage of the great selection of material there is to offer.

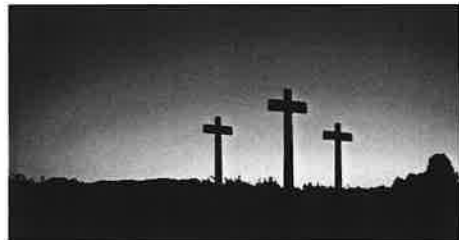
Submitted by

Darlene Sherk

Librarian

MINISTRY and PERSONNEL REPORT

Committee Membership 2022: Jill Jackson, Lloyd Roseboom, Brian Haley and Chair Lesley Rickard
Lloyd Roseboom has resigned from the committee, and we all thank him for his valuable participation.



I would personally like to thank my committee

members for their perseverance and devotion to

the responsibilities of supporting our ministers and lay staff and a sincere thank you to Rev. Alison Chisolm, DLM Heather Filson, Darlene Oord, Carrie Dunn, Steve Trider and Jayme Lilley for their commitment to our church and community. We as a committee would also like to recognize all our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly on various events. We would be lost without them.

The last year was a steep learning curve for the committee but knowing we had the support of the congregation and Regional Council, we worked through our duties and responsibilities to the best of our abilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Rickard, Chair M&P

FLOWER and DECORATING COMMITTEE

The committee ladies have returned to our duties this past year with the return of in church services and activities. We made a few changes to our Easter Lily memorials. We are now using silk Easter lilies and hydrangeas in our display which are in memory of loved ones. We continue to have our annual Christmas Poinsettia Memorial as we have in the past. This past Christmas will be one we will all remember as the storm cancelled everything and kept us home without power and heat in some areas.

We are thankful for the support we had this year. Our group has also experienced change as some of our long time flower ladies have passed the job on to some new people. We thank these women for the years of faithful support - Ann Elise Bull, Donna May, Darlene Tuck and Joan Koudijs. We welcome Connie Ford, Cheryl Brown and Linda Traver.

The Christmas Decor as in our own homes is a big job in the church. We are grateful for the help of Jan Wilson, Laurie Haley, Judy Brennan and Carol Marko who helped to make this job easier.

Our weekly memorial flowers in the sanctuary continue as our thanks to those who have supported the memorial poinsettias.

Submitted by the 2023 Flower team consisting of Cathy Boggio, Stephanie Brown, Connie Ford, Cheryl Brown, Linda Traver, Cathy Rubocki and Cheryl Bull

COOKIES & CHRIST REPORT

Cookies & Christ ran the entire year. We were at Portal Village in February, June, October and December with a couple dozen residents each time. Thanks to Marilyn Robinson, Darlene Oord, Darlene Sherk, Cathy Roseboom and Donna Tuck for participating and/or baking goodies.

We look forward to the time when we can gather again in Portal Village and Northland Pointe, sharing the love of God with all who attend.

Submitted by Carrie Dunn, Co-ordinator

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

The Prayer Shawl Group continued to work at their homes, knitting and crocheting beautiful shawls for Central's family. Many shawls have been given out since Covid began and we will continue to support all who need comfort through this project. For knitters and crocheters in our midst, if you would like more information on this group, please contact the church office 905-834-4533. Donations of yarn, bags and tissue papers continue to be dropped off and the group is thankful for the support.

2ND PORT COLBORNE SCOUTING GROUP REPORT

COVID had a large impact on our numbers within all sections and this year we have seen great growth, especially in our younger Beaver and Cub sections. We are confident the numbers in the older Scouts section will start to increase as youth progress through the program. COVID was not ideal for anyone, but it did have a silver lining. It made us rethink how our program operates, and more importantly, that we were not putting enough OUT in Scouts. We have made efforts this year to get the youth outside more often and engage in traditional Scouting activities such as hiking, camping, orienteering, building, etc. This is also our first year with the switch from a September to August Scouting year to one which runs from January to December.

When not outdoors, all sections continued to meet at the church. Beavers meet Tuesday evenings, and the Cub and Scout sections meet Thursday nights. All sections started the year with a hike and a visit with the Niagara Regional Police Dive Team who taught us a lot about water safety and let us explore their boat at the Sugarloaf Marina.

All sections also engaged in new initiatives which are planned and organized by Scouts Canada which engages youth in all things Scouting through weekly challenges suited for each level based around a theme. The first theme Around the World in 80 Days, which was partly done online due to the COVID restrictions in the early spring last year. Which was followed by Catch the Flame and Dragon Trail Quest. These were very well received by all the youth in our section and we have great engagement.

Over the summer, a small contingent from 2nd Port Colborne attended the Finland International Jamboree by way of Iceland. Which was an amazing experience for all who attended. I personally feel that this will not be our last as we are already thinking about where we can go in 2024.

Sadly, we most recently had to say goodbye to our dear friend and long-time Scouter Bob Pressey as he passed away on January 5, 2023. He will be greatly missed.

At the start of the year, the numbers for the group are as follows:

Beaver Scouts – 10 youth and 3 Scouters

Cub Scouts - 3 Youth and 3 Scouters

Scouts – 5 Youth and 2 Scouters

Currently our numbers are as follows:

Beaver Scouts – 17 youth and 6 Scouters

Cub Scouts - 16 Youth and 4 Scouters

Scouts – 4 Youth and 1 Scouters

Submitted by
Dave Sadonoja
Scout Liaison

Greetings from UCW (United Church Women)

We are happy to be back with our meetings. It has been a long time coming. Our first meeting was January 11, 2023. We had to decide where to go from here. Our numbers are few, but we are still meeting as the UCW. In 2022 we did 4 receptions for as well as the Christmas luncheon for the Harbour Lite Singers.

Last year we earned \$1,849.70 through the sales of our Christmas Ornaments. Thank you to all who supported this project. And YES, we have started on the 2023 Christmas Tree Ornaments.

We wish to everyone, a happy New Year!

Submitted by

Vicki Fretz

President

PS Thank you to all who supported us.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

Balance Brought forward Jan. 1, 2022			\$1,642.60
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Christmas Ornaments/Fruitcake Sales	\$2,110.00		
Catering	2,025.00		
Wheels to Meals	25.00		
Offerings	366.00		
Memorial Shirley Kembley	<u>25.00</u>		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$4,551.00		<u>\$4,551.00</u>
			\$6,193.60
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Donations	\$1,870.00		
Mission & Service Fund UCC	500.00		
Transfer to Central United General Fund	1,800.00		
Gifts	200.00		
Catering Expenses	180.68		
Miscellaneous	58.64		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$4,609.32		<u>\$4,609.32</u>
BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022			<u>\$1,584.28</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Tuck, Treasurer

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Unfortunately, our financial statement is not ready for printing with the Annual report and a last minute medical issue with our Treasurer makes it impossible to finalize the report for publication. We will have hard copies available for the annual meeting. At this stage it is clear we will experience a deficit in excess of \$40,000.00 for 2022.

Our congregation's work in the community is significant and important. The continued support of Food with Friends outreach to the hungry, support of the Food Bank, support for the local School breakfast program, our semi-annual clothing boutique, our seniors ministry of Cookies with Christ not to overlook the significant contributions to the national church through Mission and Service, are all possible with the support of all of you. Thank you.

However, the reality is that change is upon us as our congregation ages, and we have not fully recovered from the effects of the pandemic.

It is easy to overlook the needs of our church when there is so much out there demanding our attention.

I want to thank Sandra Frame for her many years serving as our Treasurer and transitioning to Jayme-Lynn Lilly, our new Treasurer. Marie Feduck deserves our thanks as she has served for many years as our Envelope Secretary and dutifully ensures our givings are recorded and receipts issued.

I ask for all our members and supporters to participate in the forthcoming discussion and planning for our congregation resulting from the retirement of Rev. Alison. We will cover the 2022 deficit with a transfer from capital funds, but these funds have been more rapidly depleted as a result of the dislocation of the pandemic and the loss of many long-time supporters. I encourage all of supporters to carefully consider their financial commitment to our congregation, to increase their givings by envelope or through PAR or consider enrolling in the PAR program which allows us to plan and budget with known revenues.

Christopher Wilson, Finance Chair.



Report to Congregations

January 2023

Greetings from all of us who love Cave Springs Camp and its enduring ministry. We welcomed children back to summer camp for 2022. We offered both day camp and overnight camp with a resultant waiting list for day camp. We thank Tim Watson, Program Director for his leadership. We also had school rentals with over 2000 students, exceeding our plans for May and June.

Our staff is busy planning for 2023, with many church, youth, and community groups renting our year-round building. I want to commend Ryan Anderson, who became our property manager with the retirement of Jim Dohn after many years of dedicated service.

Krystyn Keir is our Executive Director. If you want to hold an event at camp, please contact Krystyn Keir at 289-501-3743 or venues@cavespringscentre.ca

There are several ways your congregation can support Cave Springs Camp.

- You can sponsor campers up to age 15, for a week at camp. There is a bursary fund.
- You can encourage youth 15 and older to apply as counsellors for a summer of teamwork, fun and growth. We also offer the Servant Leadership Program for a small number of 15 year old leaders who might be counsellors next year.
- Your congregation can name two members to our Corporation. Our Corporation AGM is in April along with 1-2 other corporation meetings to share news and generate excitement. The corporation elects up to 20 volunteer board members who meet all through the year.
- You could apply to be a board member or you could also choose to serve on a committee without being a board member.
- You may book a family or community event, any month except July and August
- You could help us build a new Water Management and maintenance building. We can arrange monthly donations from your bank account or credit card. Many people donating \$20 monthly can make a big difference.
- You could arrange monthly donations by emailing donations@cavespringscamp.on.ca

If you would like to have a Camping Sunday with leadership from camp, please contact us. We would also be willing to speak to your groups or board to share the news and needs of the camp.

We ask that, if at all possible, you set something aside in your personal budget for Cave Springs and in your congregation's donations. In this time of growth for CSC, our financial needs are great. We thank you for your support, as Camp cannot happen without you.

Soon, the joyful sound of youthful voices will again resound at our camp as your youth learn and grow in this beautiful natural setting.

Your servant,
David Duffus, president of the board

Cave Springs Camp Inc. Charitable #118841 535 RR001
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289.501.3743