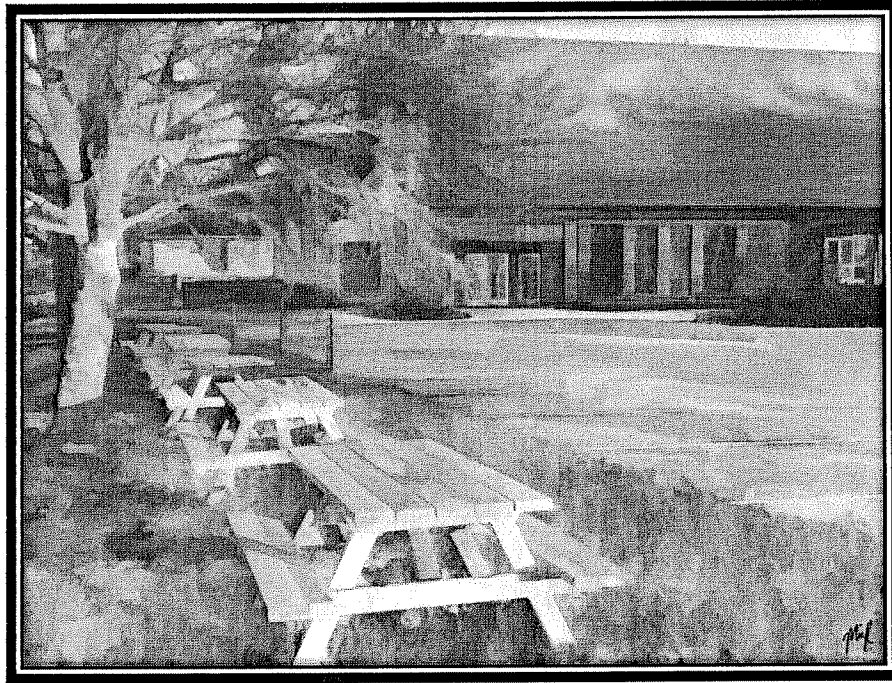


BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



DEEP SPIRITUALITY, BOLD DISCIPLESHIP, DARING JUSTICE

The United Church of Canada is a community of hope, a vibrant and vital church with both purpose and vision. We live in a time of rapid change in religious life, great inequities between peoples, and collective harm to our earth community. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Living purposefully into this call and vision anticipates becoming the Beloved Community—the ever inbreaking, transforming, reconciling realm of God, today!

VISION STATEMENT

As followers of Jesus Christ, Bridgewater United Church is a church family that values each person as equal and unique loving expressions of God with gifts and talents to share. People of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background, economic circumstance and those experiencing other barriers that limit inclusion are welcome to fully participate in all our ministries.

MISSION STATEMENT

To create a vibrant community of followers of Jesus where everyone deeply knows they belong, are cared for, can grow spiritually and actively demonstrate our love in the world and towards one another.

CORE VALUES

We value energetic engagement in our:
Spiritual Health
Generosity
Acceptance of all
Responsiveness to the world
Love for God, creation, self and others



#APlaceWhereEveryoneBelongs
#ChooseLove

87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater, NS, B4V 1T2
Church Office Phone: (902) 543-4833

Ministers' and Pastoral Care Private Church Phone: (902) 543-6854

Reverend Neil McEwen westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com (902) 523-5687

Reverend Hans van Nie hans@bridgewaterunited.ca (902) 277-4235

Church Office E-mail: info@bridgewaterunited.ca Website: www.bridgewaterunited.ca

Church Office Hours ~ Tuesday to Friday ~ 10:00am – 12:30pm

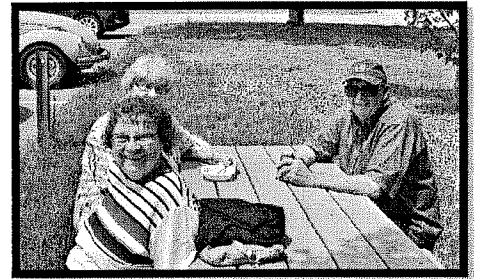
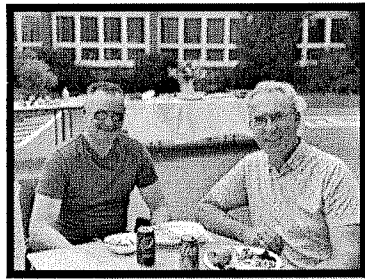
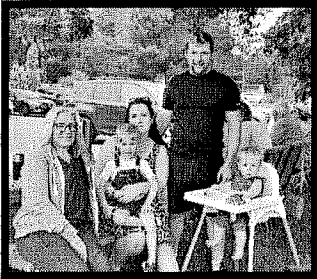
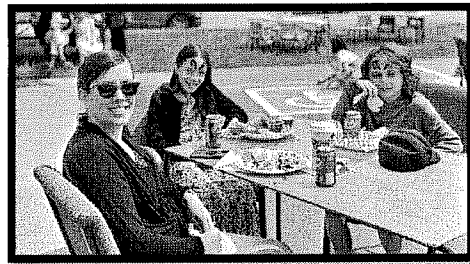
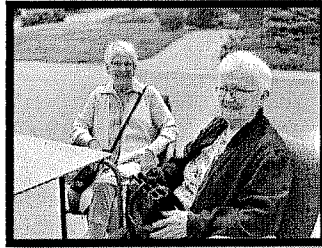
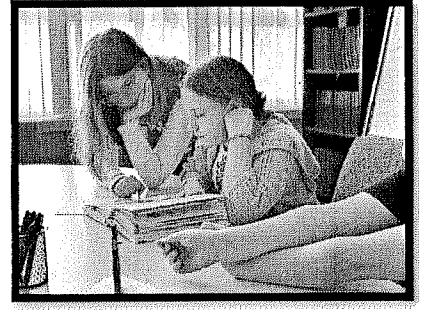
Be sure to like and share our Facebook and YouTube page!

Our Church is a Nut-Free and Scent-Free Church

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2023 AT A GLANCE



REFLECTION
CHARTING A COURSE FORWARD

If I stand on the back deck of the Manse and look through the trees, I can see West Side United. For about half the year the view is clearer when the trees have lost their leaves. At nighttime, it is easier to see because the exterior lights are glowing brightly. Other times the view is obstructed by foliage, fog or when the boughs of the evergreens are heavily laden with snow.

What would it be like to walk directly from the Manse to the Church? A few years ago I decided to embrace the opportunity and take the direct line of travel through the trees. It was not an easy journey. There were fallen trees and branches on the ground that had to be climbed over and then the small brook that runs between the two properties along with the wide swampy areas on both sides of the stream of flowing water were tackled. Once the least treacherous portion of the stream was navigated, there was a tangle of blackberry bushes and new-growth pine trees covering a steep incline with just the peak of the church roof in sight. There was no easy way to the top and my destination other than moving forward and making a path through the mess that restricted any semblance of an unobstructed clear path.

With some challenges, struggles, a few scratches and frustrations, I made it to the clearing of the parking lot and reached my destination and said to myself, "That wasn't too bad!" The journey back home was easier as I returned by walking along the shoulder of the highway enjoying the absence of obstructions, along with a safe and smooth path which required less energy – but far less inspirational for a story.

My thoughts go back to one of our ancient stories of faith when the People of God, the Israelites, were living under the reign of Pharaoh as slaves. With the presence of God among them they were set free and began a journey to their homeland. The journey wasn't easy. The journey wasn't quick. They encountered obstacles and challenges. They did, however, hold on to the vision of their destination to give them the strength they needed to move forward.

There are days I feel like we are reliving that story in our current lives. We know the destination of where we want to go – but the journey has not been an easy one. We have endured challenges and obstacles that have weighed heavy on our spirits, holding on to whatever granules of strength and energy we possess to give us the courage to take slow and uncertain steps forward. And even when we feel like we have taken a few steps backward on our journey, we continue to look for those glimmers of hope that will offer us another route and path that we can take to bring us closer to our destination.

We have our destination in sight, but it might not look exactly the same as we are holding in our mind – we have to be prepared to accept that the landscape at the end of the path will look different because the world and circle of life we are living in has changed; we have been challenged and changed by the journey.

Like the Israelites wandering through the wilderness for forty years, journeying to the Promised Land, I too contemplated the presence of God in the midst of our journey as a Community of Faith.

With hope we continue to envision a path forward and I encourage us to look back and discover the ways God sustained, supported and was present among us in many moments and within the new opportunities and experiences gifted to us among the obstacles, challenges and restrictions. Where did you see God?

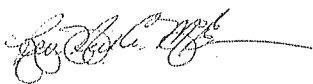
We are stronger when we know we are on this journey together. We have a common goal as our destination, and we are not alone as we chart our course forward.

May our journey forward be one that we continue to share. Together we make the path easier to traverse when we know we are sustained, encouraged and supported by one another and by our faith.

Thanks for sharing this journey; I couldn't have come this far without your support, encouragement and love.

May God continue to inspire us and be present among us as we chart our course forward.

Blessings,



BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH'S
LIVING FAITH STORY

THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

**We are called to share our gifts in community,
seeking fellowship and praising God.**

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” ~ Acts 2:44-47

**As disciples we are called to be stewards of God’s Grace
by serving one another with the gifts we have been given.**

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
~ 1 Peter 4:10-11*

AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, GOD CALLS US TO BE:

- A welcoming body that provides time and space for all people to explore and grow on their faith journey.
- A diverse community that seeks to explore and grow in our faith journey.
- A community that values the old and the new, building on the traditions of the Church, cherishing our history, embracing new opportunities and creatively exploring our purpose as Christ’s body in the world.
- People who openly share their talents and gifts with one another to further the life and work of the Church.
- Lifelong learners through Christian education and fellowship for children, youth and adults.
- Stewards of God’s Grace for ourselves and others by supporting Outreach within our Congregation, Community and beyond.
- People who inspire and motivate one another to deepen our relationship with God and each other.
- People who encourage one another, offering care and support through all of life’s stages.
- Willing to listen for the Spirit and open ourselves to new opportunities through the inspiration of Christ’s teachings in Scripture and the continuing work of God in the world.

A NEW CREED (1968)

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

CHURCH OFFICIALS 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer of the Congregation
Minister

Elizabeth Burrige
Audrey Wamboldt
Edna Matheson
Blake Hirtle
Reverend Neil McEwen

CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Chairperson of Church Council
Vice-Chairperson of Church Council
Past Chairperson of Church Council
Secretary of Church Council
Treasurer of the Congregation
Chairperson of Finance and Stewardship Committee
Chairperson of Ministry and Personnel Committee
Minister

Elizabeth Burrige
Audrey Wamboldt
David Walker
Edna Matheson
Blake Hirtle
Richard Greek
Sam Elsworth
Reverend Neil McEwen

BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Representative to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
Representatives to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
Representatives to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council

Jack Logan
David Walker
Marg Forbes

PROFILE COMMITTEE

Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Advisor

Chad Burrige
Mandy Hynes
Jack Logan
Micaila Rafuse
Audrey Wamboldt
Reverend Heather Ferrier

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Sam Elsworth
Jennifer Frotten
Marg Forbes
Brenda Knox
David Walker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Minister
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Brian Buck
Vacant
Vacant
Reverend Neil McEwen
Bill Somers
Corrine Zinck
Richard Greek

MEMORIAL MINISTRY

Chairperson
Representative from Finance and Stewardship Committee
Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Richard Greek
Richard Greek
Vacant
Diane Patten
Bruce Munro
Everett Cook
Bill Somers
Jack Logan
Corrine Zinck

CHURCH OFFICIALS 2023

THE MINISTERIAL TEAM

Minister
Music Ministry Director
Church Office Administrator

Reverend Neil McEwen
Barbara Pate
Tracy Rafuse

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Minister
Sunday School Superintendent
B-United Youth Group Coordinators

Tracy Rafuse
Tracy Rafuse
Diane Barry
Corrine Zinck
Carolyn Prince-Selig
Elizabeth Smith
Vacant
Reverend Neil McEwen
Tracy Rafuse
Tracy Rafuse
Randy Rafuse

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Minister
Ministry Member
Ministry Member
Ministry Member
Ministry Member
Ministry Member

Reverend Neil McEwen
Greg Bayers
Marg Forbes
Joanne Johnson
Ewart Morse
Tracy Rafuse

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Coordinator
Minister

Tracy Rafuse
Reverend Neil McEwen

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Treasurer of the Congregation
Church Envelope Steward
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member – Ways and Means Ministry
Committee Member – United Church Women
Committee Member – Property Committee
Committee Member – Memorial Ministry

Richard Greek
Blake Hirtle
Tracy Rafuse
Brenda Knox
Greg Gatchell
Vacant
Beverly Burgess
Randall Knox
Richard Greek

WAYS AND MEANS MINISTRY

Chairperson
Secretary
Ministry Member
Ministry Member
Grocery Card Fundraiser Representative
Ministry Member
Ministry Member

Donna Stitt/**Vacant**
Cheryl Rudderham
Joanne Johnson
Christine Forsyth
Ewart Morse
Vacant
Vacant

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

UCW President
UCW Co-President
UCW Co-President
UCW Treasurer
UCW Secretary
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Ruth Rudderham
Beverly Burgess
Linda Rowter
Beverly Burgess
Linda Rowter
Diane Patten

CHURCH OFFICIALS 2023

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Representative to Board of Trustees
Key Coordinator
Facility and Rental Coordinator
Funding Coordinator for Cost Recovery Tenants

Randall Knox
Bob Forbes
Sam Elsworth
Kevin Morrison
Vacant
Ivan Rodenhiser
Tracy Rafuse
Blake Hirtle

GREETERS

Coordinator

Dale Elsworth

BE UNITED DIGITAL MINISTRIES

Minister
Production Team Member
Production Team Member
Production Team Member
Production Team Member
Production Team Member

Reverend Neil McEwen
Todd Langille
David Barnes
Tracy Rafuse
Evan Rafuse
Dave Doggett

JANITORIAL SERVICES

Custodian

Suzanne Jermeay

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Vice-Chairperson
Treasurer
Director
Representative to Board of Trustees
Bridgewater United Church Representative
Bridgewater United Church Representative
Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member

Karen Crouse
Donna Burke
Catherine Crocker
Denise McAuley
Brian Buck
Heather Morrison
Angela Bryan
Daphne Egilsson
Erin Kelly
Amy Cahoon-Swim

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

Group Commissioner
Treasurer
Registrar
Secretary
Bridgewater United Church Contact/Representative
Beaver Scouts Contact Scouter
Cub Scouts Contact Scouter
Scouts Contact Troop Scouter
Venturer Scouts Contact Scouter
Rover Scouts Contact Crew Scouter
Rover Scouts Contact Crew Scouter

Peter Lake
Lori Nauss
Vacant
Margaret Benne
Tracy Rafuse
Michaela Ernst
Kevin Mattson
Sterling Rae
Tobi Benne
Harold Ingles
Gwen Mosher

BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

President (St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church)
Vice-President (Bridgewater United Church)
Treasurer (Bridgewater United Church)
Secretary (Holy Trinity Anglican Church)
Bridgewater United Church Representative

John MacDonald
Vacant
David Walker
Sylvia Lonergan
Diane Patten

CHURCH OFFICIALS 2023

BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH FOOD BANK

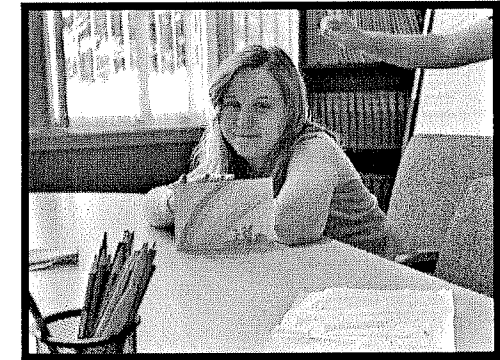
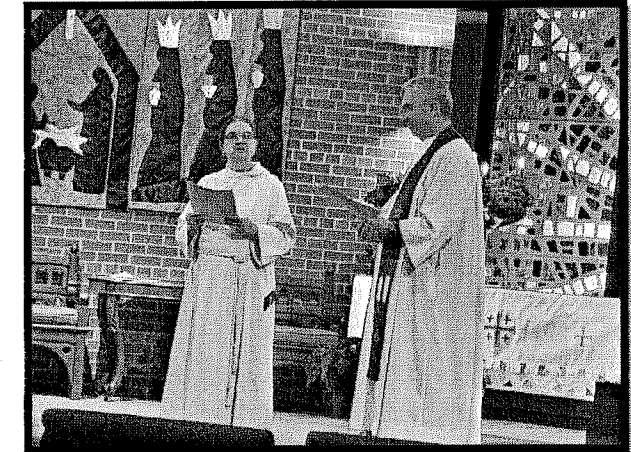
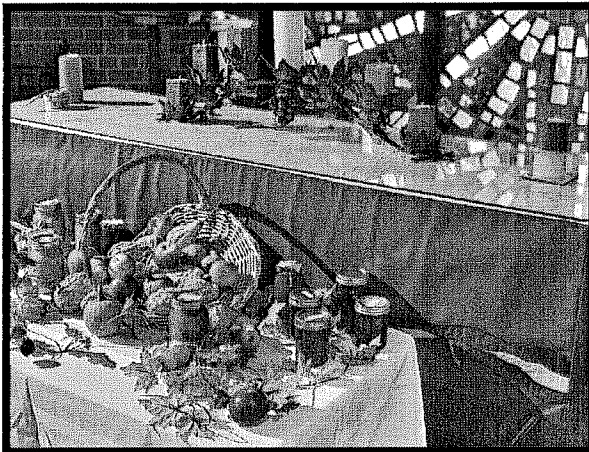
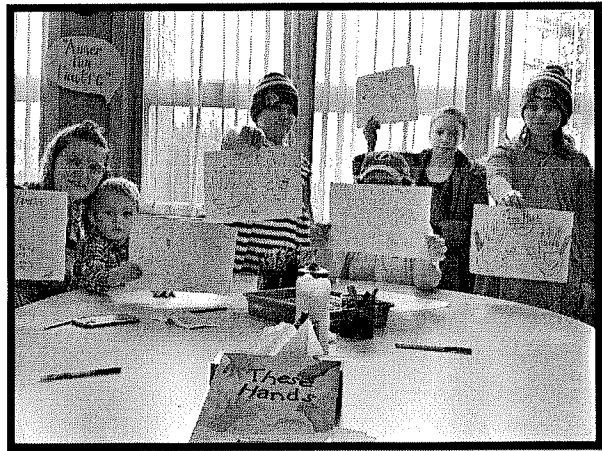
Bridgewater United Church Representative
Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank Coordinator

Linda Rowter
Suzanne Stewart

B.U.C. BRIGADE MISSION TRIP

Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member
Mission Trip Member

Brian Buck
Janice Buck
Linda Rowter
Margie Hubley
Donna Stitt
Beverly Burgess
Gwenn Oakes



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MARCH 5, 2023 (DRAFT)

(page 1 of 4)

The Annual Congregational Meeting to receive 2022 Annual Reports of Bridgewater United Church was held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 in the Church Sanctuary.

PRESENT:

Reverend Neil McEwen, Corrine Zinck, Charlotte Raymundo, David Walker, Brenda Knox, Tracy Rafuse, Evan Rafuse, Micaïla Rafuse, Elizabeth Burrîdige, Chad Burrîdige, Diane Patten, Bev. Burgess, Linda Rowter, Audrey Wamboldt, Heather Fîfield, Laurel Cowie, Edna Matheson, Mary Gray, Karen Crouse, Phyllis Munroe, Blake Hirtle, Yvonne Hirtle, Randall Knox, Janice Appleby, Bill Appleby, Sam Elsworth, Jean Schofield, Lynn MacKinnon, Martin Hebb, Hazel Hebb, Marg Forbes, Bea Zinck, Reverend Bob Zinck, Jack Logan, Joy Bird, Ingrid Greek.

REGRETS:

Brian Buck and Janice Buck.

It was determined a quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Reverend Neil McEwen at 12:07pm and opened with a prayer.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – CHAIR

Edna Matheson nominated David Walker to act as Chair for the meeting and was accepted by David Walker. No other nominations received. Reverend Neil McEwen declared David Walker as Chair.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – SECRETARY

Bev. Burgess nominated Edna Matheson to act as Secretary for the meeting and was accepted by Edna Matheson. No other nominations received. Reverend Neil McEwen declared Edna Matheson as Secretary.

CORRESPONDING PRIVILEGES

Motion: Jack Logan/Sam Elsworth that:

1. All adherents and visitors be permitted to speak on matters coming before the Congregation but not be entitled to vote on some matters.
2. Others present today who are neither members nor adherents, but who officially represent a group or program of our church, be granted the opportunity to address the meeting regarding their particular group or annual report.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Diane Patten/Brenda Knox that the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Ingrid Greek to approve the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 27, 2022 and the Special Congregational meeting held on July 13, 2022.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Partnership with West Side United

David Walker reported that the agreement has been formalized, with both churches agreeing to and happy with the arrangement. Approval from Regional Council 15 has recently been received.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MARCH 5, 2023 (DRAFT)

(page 2 of 4)

Search Process

Step One in the Search Process to fill the Ministry vacancy is to develop an accurate Profile. A committee has been formed and the liaison representative from Regional Council 15 will be Reverend Heather Ferrier. All edits/changes to the Profile will come back to the congregation for approval.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2022 ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A correction to the Removal of Membership to Another Church under Rites of Passage on page 13 of the Annual Report was identified by Tracy Rafuse. Carolyn Lohnes' membership was transferred to Trinity United Church, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

Note:

It was noted in the presentation of the reports that the Property Committee will be acting on some of the recommendations from the energy audit by CBCL. The Property Committee supports the work as being beneficial to the building. The intent is to apply for grants that will cover the expenditures itemized in the 2023 budget.

Motion: Laurel Cowie/Jack Logan that the 2022 Annual Reports of the various groups of the Pastoral Charge as published in the Annual Report (except for the Financial Report of the Church) be accepted.

Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A financial report from the Board of Trustees will be made available at a future date.

ACCEPTANCE OF BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was presented by Blake Hirtle.

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Randall Knox to accept the Bridgewater United Church 2022 Financial Report as published in the Annual Report.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION 2023 BUDGET

The 2023 Budget will be voted on as the last agenda item of this meeting. Blake Hirtle made the following points regarding the budget:

- Budgets are based on previous years' financial statements.
- The 2022 financial figures turned out differently than what was expected due to changes in our ministry and personnel expenditures.
- The costs of ministry personnel will continue as is until at least the end June when the arrangement will be reviewed.
- Proposed estimates are accurate until something big happens.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Reverend Neil McEwen made the following points:

- It has been a pleasure to be involved with Bridgewater United Church, first with 20% for Pastoral Care and now growing into the 50% role. He acknowledged that Regional Council 15 has agreed to our arrangement that we've been doing since last summer.
- Expectations from the congregation and himself are evolving and shifting.
- Encouraged that it was accepted to change the format of the annual meeting by presenting the reports during the church service. Expressed thanks to those who brought cookies and helped with the setup.
- Reviewed the usual schedule of days he is in the office at Bridgewater United Church but identified that it is not guaranteed.
- Reverend Neil is looking forward to further involvement with congregation members and the work in the church. The evaluation in August will determine where we go from there.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MARCH 5, 2023 (DRAFT)

(page 3 of 4)

NOMINATING REPORT – CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS

David Walker made the following comments:

- The message in the digital service was on “Willing to Serve”.
- The Lenten Study group readings, instead of focusing on the negatives, to focus on what we are doing and achieving.
- Different ways of getting to the same outcome. Not everyone does things the same way.
- Expressed thanks to those who are stepping up to serve.
- What was done to cope with changes imposed by the pandemic restrictions was not intended to be permanent.
- Filling committee positions will be a challenge going forward.
- Instead of looking hard for replacements, consider a change in number of members.

The following slate of Church Council members are presented for election:

Chairperson: Elizabeth Burrige

Vice-Chairperson: Audrey Wamboldt

Secretary: Edna Matheson

Treasurer to the Congregation: Blake Hirtle

Member at large:

Member at large:

Motion: Randall Knox/Tracy Rafuse to approve the nomination of Church Council Elected Members for 2023-2024 as presented.

Motion carried.

NOMINATING REPORT – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resignations from the Board of Trustees have been received from Luke Pelot and Dave Rushton.

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Bev. Burgess to accept the resignations of Luke Pelot and Dave Rushton from the Board of Trustees with regret.

Motion carried.

NOMINATING REPORT – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Walker read the list of Committee members for information as they are not elected nor are Chairpersons of the Committees.

- Worship Committee has been reconvened.
- David Walker has volunteered to serve on Ministry and Personnel Committee.
- Some Committee Chairpersons have identified that the list of members is no longer accurate.
- The list of Committees does not match the list in the Bridgewater United Church Governance Handbook since the pandemic restrictions.
- There were three representatives from Bridgewater United Church on Inter-Church Council until Karen Crouse resigned. At a meeting, the bylaws were reviewed that it can be up to three representatives. It was discussed that three from each church are not needed so the vacancy will not be filled unless someone is interested.
- If there are any mistakes in the list of Committee members, please bring it to the attention of the Church Council Chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed change to make-up of Church Council Executive

It was recommended to the congregation to add the Past Chairperson of Church Council and the Chairperson of Ministry and Personnel Committee to the Church Council Executive.

Motion: Bev. Burgess/Diane Patten that the Past Chairperson of Church Council and the Chairperson of Ministry and Personnel Committee be Executive Members of Church Council.

Motion Carried.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MARCH 5, 2023 (DRAFT)

(page 4 of 4)

Comment made that it was an excellent idea for Chairperson of Ministry and Personnel Committee to be part of the Executive.

Proposed Ad Hoc Committee to review Bridgewater United Church Governance Handbook

David Walker recognized that since COVID-19 restrictions, we have not been following the Handbook to the letter. Marg Forbes, Bev. Burgess and David Walker have volunteered to review the Governance Handbook.

Motion: Karen Crouse/Linda Rowter that the Governance Handbook be reviewed and recommendations be submitted to Church Council.

Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Note:

The 2023 Proposed Budget includes the expenditures projected to meet seven recommendations from the CBCL energy audit. It is inherent in the approval of the budget to support the Property Committee in applying for grants to mitigate the costs of the projects as specified on page 36 of the Annual Report.

Motion: Blake Hirtle/Bev. Burgess to accept the Proposed 2023 Financial Budget for Bridgewater United Church as published in the Annual Report for 2022.

Motion carried.

David Walker made the following comments:

- The arrangements with West Side United will be reviewed in July. It is anticipated there will be Congregational Meetings to address the Search Committee recommendations on the Profile.
- The Ministry positions are 1.5 FTE. In discussions with David Hewitt from Regional Council 15, how we fill them will be open to the congregation to explore when we get to that stage.
- David Walker expressed thanks to the Church Council Executive and to Church Council and acknowledged that it hasn't always been comfortable dealing with changes and the challenge of the unknown. Where we are going will be up to the congregation.

Reverend Neil McEwen expressed gratitude to those continuing on in Committee work, to those who are changing roles, to those who are choosing sabbatical (intentional rest from duties and responsibilities) and to those who are new to roles. Reverend Neil expressed blessings to the Table Officers for the 2023-2024 year to lead and inspire.

Sam Elsworth expressed a thank-you to Reverend Neil for his contributions during the challenging times faced the last few years. Reverend Neil responded with acknowledging his spouse, Philip for being his even keel and for the assistance of the West Side United's Student Minister, Donna Kelly.

Reverend Neil closed the meeting with prayer.

Motion: Jack Logan/Randall Knox to adjourn the meeting at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Edna Matheson
Secretary of Church Council

David Walker
Chairperson of Church Council

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2023
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following slate of Church Council members for elections:

CHAIRPERSON: Elizabeth Burridge
VICE - CHAIRPERSON: Audrey Wamboldt
SECRETARY: Edna Matheson
TREASURER TO THE CONGREGATION: Blake Hirtle
MEMBER AT LARGE:
MEMBER AT LARGE:

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following names for appointment as Board of Trustees members:

CHAIRPERSON: Brian Buck
TREASURER:
SECRETARY:
MINISTER: Reverend Neil McEwen
BOARD MEMBER: Richard Greek
BOARD MEMBER: Bill Somers
BOARD MEMBER: Corrine Zinck

RECOMMENDATION: That we accept the resignation of Luke Pelot and David Rushton as Trustee Members.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following list of Committee Members:

REGIONAL COUNCIL 15: Jack Logan, Marg Forbes, David Walker

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL: Sam Elsworth (Chairperson), Marg Forbes, Brenda Knox, David Walker

MEMORIAL: Richard Greek (Chairperson/Board of Trustees Representative), Corrine Zinck, Bill Somers, Diane Patten, Bruce Munro, Everett Cook, Jack Logan

FAITH FORMATION: Tracy Rafuse (Chairperson), Diane Barry, Carolyn Prince-Selig, Corrine Zinck, Elizabeth Smith, Reverend Neil McEwen

PASTORAL CARE: Reverend Neil McEwen, Ewart Morse, Marg Forbes, Joanne Johnson, Greg Bayers, Tracy Rafuse

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: David Walker, Phyllis Munroe, Audrey Wamboldt, Barbara Pate, Reverend Neil McEwen

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Richard Greek (Chairperson/Memorial Ministry Representative), Greg Gatchell, Brenda Knox, Bev. Burgess (UCW Representative), Blake Hirtle, Randall Knox

WAYS AND MEANS: Donna Stitt (Chairperson), Ewart Morse, Joanne Johnson, Christine Forsyth, Cheryl Rudderham

PROPERTY: Randall Knox (Chairperson), Bob Forbes, Sam Elsworth, Kevin Morrison, Ivan Rhodenizer, Blake Hirtle, Tracy Rafuse

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE: Karen Crouse (Chairperson), Heather Morrison, Donna Burke, Brian Buck (Board of Trustees Representative)

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUTING GROUP COMMITTEE:

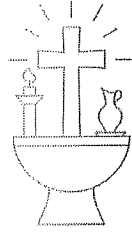
BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL: Diane Patten, David Walker

Respectfully submitted,
David Walker, *Chairperson to Church Council*

rites of Passage
JANUARY 2023 – DECEMBER 2023

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

There were no members welcomed into the universal Christian Family through Sacrament of Baptism in 2023.



CONFIRMATION

There were no members welcomed into the universal Christian Family through Church Membership through Confirmation in 2023.



MEMBERSHIP BY TRANSFER

The following members were welcomed into the universal Christian Family through Membership by Transfer in 2023.

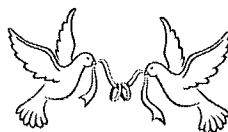
Janice Lee Appleby from Bedford United Church; Bedford, Nova Scotia
William (**Bill**) Stuart Appleby from Bedford United Church; Bedford, Nova Scotia



REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO ANOTHER CHURCH

The following members were removed from Membership at Bridgewater United Church to another Church.

Nancy Berkshire to Woodlawn United Church; Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Eleanor Judith Crowell to Bridgewater Baptist Church; Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
James Wesley Crowell to Bridgewater Baptist Church; Bridgewater, Nova Scotia



MARRIAGES

Laura Marguerite Rudderham and Declan Patrick Toohey

July 14, 2023

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



The following Members and Adherents of Bridgewater United Church have passed from us in 2023.
We honour their names and memory at this time.

Gordon Anderson Slauenwhite	January 6, 2023
Graham Bruce Richards	January 19, 2023
Mabel Jane Naugler	January 27, 2023
Ruth Ellen Rudderham	February 11, 2023
John Carl Roth	February 27, 2023
Mildred Ida Jodrie	March 9, 2023
Donald Charles Robertson	March 27, 2023
Irene Elizabeth Ungar	March 31, 2023
Helen Ann Murdock	April 13, 2023
Esther Catherine Bond	June 10, 2023
David Murray Anson Berringer	June 28, 2023
Elizabeth Anne Emenau	July 7, 2023
Gwendolyn Lois Elizabeth Corkum	August 2, 2023
Delma Henry Ritcey	August 7, 2023
Gordon Gilbert Miller	August 21, 2023
Sylvia Madelyn Silver	November 2, 2023

*"Say not in grief that they were no more but live in thankfulness that they were."
~ Hebrew Proverb*



2023 MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial Donations in 2023 were designated to the Bridgewater United Local Fund, Bridgewater United Memorial Fund, Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada Fund, Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank Fund, Bridgewater United Instruments and Maintenance Fund, Bridgewater United Church United Church Women, Bridgewater United Memorial Gardens Fund and the BUD Online Ministries Fund in honour of the following names:

Joan Hebb

Wendy Fraser

Gladys Veinot

Graham Richards

Ruth Ernst

Ruth Rudderham

Walter Thompson

Mildred Jodrie

Irene Ungar

Helen Murdock

Elizabeth Emenau

Donald Buck

Lal Singh

Gwen Corkum

Charles Killam

Barry Rofihe

Sylvia Silver

Robert and Ruth Rudderham

Arnold and Freda Croft

Vernon Meisner



CHURCH COUNCIL

Our year began at the Annual Congregational Meeting where we elected to Church Council:

Past Chairperson – David Walker
Chairperson – Elizabeth Burrige
Vice-Chairperson – Audrey Wamboldt
Secretary – Edna Matheson
Treasurer to the Congregation – Blake Hirtle

Other members of the Church Council include:

Ministry Team – Reverend Neil McEwen
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Representative - Jack Logan
Ministry and Personnel Committee Chairperson – Sam Elsworth
Board of Trustees Chairperson – Brian Buck
Faith Formation Committee Chairperson – Tracy Rafuse
Pastoral Care Ministry – Reverend Neil McEwen
Finance and Stewardship Committee Chairperson - Richard Greek
Property Committee Chairperson - Randall Knox
Worship Committee – Reverend Neil McEwen
UCW Representative – Linda Rowter
Bridgewater Day Care Centre Representative – Karen Crouse
Bridgewater Inter-Church Council Representative – David Walker

Reverend Neil McEwen continued to bless us in a 50% capacity, and we used Lay Pastoral Ministers and Video Sermons to hold services each Sunday throughout the year. The first Sunday of every month was designated as a joint-ministry Sunday, where we met at Bridgewater United Church with all congregations involved in our Be United Digital (BUD) Ministries and West Side United Church. The congregations included in our BUD Ministries are New West Pine United Church; Pinehurst, Caledonia Pastoral Charge; Caledonia and St. Andrews-St. Marks United Church; Ingramport. The fifth Sunday of the month saw us rotate between Bridgewater United Church and West Side United Church. During the summer months, we alternated Sundays with West Side United Church in Pentz.

This year, we worked hard to add a Temporary Part-Time Minister for six months. We met with Reverend David Hewitt and Reverend Heather Ferrier from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to support us in our search for a Temporary Part-Time Minister. In December, we were pleased to announce that we hired Reverend Hans van Nie from January 2024 to June 2024.

Some highlights from 2023 include:

- Continuation of our Joint Team Ministry with West Side United Church in Pentz.
- Retirement of our Music Ministry Director, Barbara Pate. We were sad to see Barbara leave but have been blessed with guest performers over the last few months.
- Walking in the Bridgewater Pride Parade in July and holding a small reception back at the Church.
- Hosting many groups in our Sanctuary this year including Seaside A Cappella ChoirFest 2023, Music from East to West - Bridgewater Fire Department Band and the "Cappy Smart Band" and Songs of the Season: Scotia Brass in Concert.
- Approving the United Church of Canada Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization, which will remove the structural barriers so the Indigenous Church can determine its place and structure within the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Elizabeth Burrige; *Church Council Chairperson*

BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Council Representatives are responsible to ensure that Church Council is kept informed of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council matters including matters from the Denominational Council office. For more information on the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, visit their website at <https://ucceast.ca/regional-council-15/>.

As I write this report, the first thing I am going to address is that I am now the Church Representative on the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. It was changed from Regional Council 15 at the RC15 Annual Meeting in June 2023.

Back in January 2019, The United Church of Canada changed their Structure of Governance, moving from a Four-Court System to a Three-Court System. All Presbyteries and Conferences were combined to create Regional Councils. Thus, Nova Scotia became Regional Council 15 along with Bermuda. New Brunswick, Gaspé Coast of Quebec and Prince Edward Island are now known as Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. Newfoundland is now known as Forst Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

Representing General Council on all three Regional Councils is Executive Minister, Reverend Faith March-MacCuish from St. John's, Newfoundland.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Logan; *Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Representative to Church Council*

PROFILE COMMITTEE

In March 2023, the Profile Committee was formed to review and update Bridgewater United Church's Living Faith Story and Job Profile as the first step for the congregation's search for a new Ministry Team.

The Committee Members were Chad Burrige, Mandy Van Iderstine Hynes, Jack Logan, Micaila Rafuse and Audrey Wamboldt. Reverend Heather Ferrier was the Ministerial Advisor for the group from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

The Committee was successful in completing an updated Faith Story before having a brief hiatus over the summer months. The Profile Committee reconvened in the fall of 2023 and worked diligently to create Job descriptions for both the one Full-Time Minister and one Half-Time Minister in the Team Ministry Profile.

With consultation and support from Reverend Heather Ferrier, the congregation by way of survey responses and conversation with groups of interest within the church, the Profile Committee was successful in completing the Ministry Profile by December 2023. In January 2024, the Profile Committee presented the report to Church Council, who recommended passing it onto the congregation for a vote in February 2024.

The Profile Committee offered an information session on the 11th of February 2024, to clarify any questions regarding the work completed. On February 12th, 2024, the congregation held a Special Congregational Meeting and voted to accept the revised Living Faith Story of Bridgewater United Church and the new Job Descriptions for the Team Ministry profile.

The Profile committee appreciates the support from the congregation and their patience during the process.

We look forward to what is in our future!

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Wamboldt; *Spokesperson for the Profile Committee*

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee of the Bridgewater United Church, receives its mandate from the United Church of Canada. Our responsibilities include maintaining a harmonious and supportive relationships within the Pastoral Charge Ministry team. More particularly the roles and functions of our Office Administrator, Music Director, Custodian and Minister(s).

We were fortunate and grateful to have two additional members join our Committee in the past year. Jennifer Frotten and David Walker are the welcomed additions to the team, and Jennifer has graciously agreed to serve as Secretary. The other members serving on the Ministry and Personnel Committee are:

Sam Elsworth; *Chairperson*
Marg Forbes
Brenda Knox

There has also been a confirmed departure from within our Ministry and Personnel group. Sue Rushton has indicated she wishes to step away from the Committee. We sincerely thank Sue for her past service and dedication to her role as Secretary, and wish her well in all her future endeavours.

We attempt to meet on a once monthly schedule, but (should circumstances dictate) this schedule may increase in frequency. Unfortunately and primarily due to the unavoidable absences of the Chairperson, we have not been able to maintain the frequently of that schedule in recent months.

This has been a challenging year for the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Although we knew it was inevitable, the retirement of Barbara Pate as our Music Ministry Director was reluctantly accepted. Barb's outstanding talent and contributions were highly appreciated, and will be missed. We do wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement!

Late in the year, we were elated to receive word that the appointment of the Reverend Hans van Nie, had been approved by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. Reverend Hans will be serving in a six month appointment. We warmly welcome Reverend Hans and his family, and look forward to our time together.

The search has begun to fill the Music Ministry Director's position.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee continues to refine job descriptions. We are working towards ensuring each staff person has access to a dedicated member of the Ministry and Personnel team to provide additional support as required. We are working on updating all Police Record Checks as required by the UCC Handbook.

In July, we had a very successful potluck dinner as way of expressing our gratitude to all of our staff members. We were joined by our fellow representatives from West Side United Church for a most enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Marg Forbes for organizing this event.

I wish to thank all members of our Committee for their continuing support, but a special note of thanks to Reverend Neil, Tracy, Donna, and Suzanne. Know that your contributions are very much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Elsworth; *Chairperson*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The congregation appoints a Board of Trustees, including a Chair of the Board of Trustees, which shall be governed by the policy and guidelines set forth in the Manual. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of 15, including the Minister who is automatically a Trustee. A majority of the Trustees must be members of the United Church. The Trustees are responsible for holding all congregational property for the congregation as part of the United Church; this includes land, buildings, funds and investments, and any other kind of property. The Trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property. The Trustees must comply with all decisions about congregational property that are made by the Bridgewater United Church Council, or Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council; and all other United Church requirements for Trustees and congregational property.

A report from the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater United Church was not submitted for inclusion in the Bridgewater United Church 2023 Annual Report.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A Financial Report from the Board of Trustees of Bridgewater United Church for 2022 and 2023 were not submitted for inclusion in the Bridgewater United Church 2023 Annual Report. A financial report will be made available at a future date when it has been completed.



MEMORIAL MINISTRY

The Memorial Fund has been established to allow relatives and friends of a deceased member or adherent of Bridgewater United Church to make a memorial donation. Donations to the Memorial Fund may be made at any time, or annually, in remembrance of loved ones, and as a living tribute to honour a dedicated member of the Church. Donations are received and Held In Trust until a suitable gift has been chosen. These donations are not used for any other purpose. All gifts are managed by the Memorial Ministry. With guidance from this Ministry, bereaved family members may wish to direct funds to enhance the life and work of Bridgewater United Church.

We wish to thank all those who made a donation in memory of loved ones during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Greek; *Chairperson*

THE MINISTERIAL TEAM
MINISTER

It feels like I just finished writing my 2022 report and here I am trying to figure out how the year of 2023 disappeared so very quickly. To help write this report I consult three valuable pieces of information: the wall calendar where all our personal and work-related information is recorded; my meeting and notebook that I keep close by at all times; and a stack of papers about 8 inches high of minutes and documents gathered from the various groups and committees I have attended throughout the year. A quick flip through the pages on the calendar, meeting/notebook and stack of papers reveals joys, challenges, exploration, learning, trust, mystery and faith.

Throughout the year, I have continued to live within the arranged relationship between Bridgewater United and West Side United and our 50/50 time split (20 hours per week at each congregation.) Having clear guidelines and expectations of Ministry responsibilities has been a helpful mechanism which assists not just with my time management but also to assist the congregations to acknowledge the reality of “part-time ministry.” There is still room to learn and understand this more deeply for all of us.

The Job Description for a 50% position (20 hours/week) for Ministry at Bridgewater United covers the areas of: Worship/Preaching; Pastoral Care/Visiting; Christian Education; Outreach; Administration; Work with the Wider Church; Children/Youths/Seniors; and Stewardship. The supported division of days in the Shared Ministry with Bridgewater United established in 2022 continued throughout 2023, namely: Tuesdays and Fridays dedicated to Bridgewater United with Worship Leadership on the 1st and 3rd Sundays; Mondays and Wednesdays dedicated to West Side United with Worship Leadership on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Days off are Thursday and Saturday. There is full acknowledgement that circumstances may arise that will result in designated days/times being shifted and re-allocated.

Weekly worship services (planning, preparing, leadership) and Pastoral Care (visits at hospital, homes and by telephone, funerals) continue to absorb the majority of my time each week. Even though the position I have been filling is a 50% position, the Administrative duties were still at the level of a Full-Time Minister (preparation for and attending meetings, supporting committees and their mandates, attention to emails/messages, involvement in church events and activities.) The monthly gatherings of the Bridgewater and Area Ministerial and my participation with this group has been active throughout the year.

The Be United Digital (BUD) Ministry is a wonderful model of ministry that we offer at Bridgewater United to smaller congregations in our area. It is a pleasure to work with a talented and dedicated team of volunteers beyond the scope of the camera lens who make the wonders of this ministry a reality: Todd Langille, Tracy Rafuse, David Barnes, Evan Rafuse and Dave Doggett. During the year, we started offering two new services per month for the digital ministries rather than one new and one recycled service. The feedback from those within the BUD Network is that they continue to enjoy the services and their continued ability to worship within their own church buildings. Bridgewater United needs to celebrate the importance of this ministry to our wider church community both within the BUD Network and to those who continue to view our Digital Ministry on our Website and Facebook Page. The value of the BUD Ministry is noticed and commended by our Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council and the National Church.

In the year of 2024, I look forward to developing my Sabbatical for 2025 in co-operation with the Ministry and Personnel Committee at West Side United and in consultation with the Ministry and Personnel Committee of Bridgewater United.

The current agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between Bridgewater United and West Side United ends on August 31, 2024. With the exciting plans for Bridgewater United to pursue the Search Process and fulfilment of a 1.5 Ministry Position, my continuation in ministry beyond the end of August is uncertain. Whatever the path is that lies ahead, we journey forward with a sense of hope and openness to the blessings of the Spirit to guide us. Thank You to the congregation for your continued dedication to the ministry of Bridgewater United Church. Thank you to those who offered support and encouragement for the ministry we share.

Blessings,
Reverend Neil McEwen; *Minister*

THE MINISTERIAL TEAM
MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR

I began as Music Ministry Director at Bridgewater United Church in October of 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023:

- Working with Reverend Neil and Tracy has been an absolute pleasure. We have a wonderful team and work well together to continue to plan the musical aspects of worship each and every week.
- Being able to provide a good variety of musical choices, styles, and accompaniments was most enjoyable. We used both Voices United and More Voices with great success, as well as a host of choruses and other songs to enhance Worship. Piano, Organ, Ukulele, Guitar, and sometimes the PowerPoint screen, were also used to help support the music during services.
- Working with Choir Members as often as we were able, continued to be a pleasure. The congregation appreciated seeing and hearing the song leadership during services, as well as the occasional Anthem selection.
- We had an opportunity at Christmas time to form a Family/Community Choir. It was wonderful to see Choir Members and Congregational Members of all ages involved in this musical offering!
- Special Musical Guests were able to come from our community to enhance Worship during the year as well. Their presence with us was greatly entertaining!

GOALS FOR 2023:

- A good deal of musical variety was featured during worship services. The 2023 goals of working with singers/ musicians in the congregation and community was met successfully.

After much thought and consideration, I decided it was time to move onto the next phase of life. So I let the Leadership Team know that I would be retiring from my position as Music Ministry Director at Bridgewater United Church as of December 31, 2023. I had a wonderful two years in the position and could not have asked for a more welcome and comfortable Ministry experience. Thank you to everyone who made the journey together so wonderful!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Pate; *Music Ministry Director*

THE MINISTERIAL TEAM
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Church Office Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 12:30pm, unless otherwise stated on the Church Office voicemail or Facebook page. The Church Office Administrator, from time to time, may need to access items to complete their work outside these Church Office Hours. During this time, they are not available to receive and assist members, so please drop by the next available day the Office is open. Voicemails and emails are only checked during Church Office hours. It is important that church business is dealt with during posted Office Hours, so that the Church Office Administrator can continue to work hard to separate their time appropriately as an employee and as a faithful member of Bridgewater United Church. For Pastoral Care emergencies, please phone (902) 543-6854.

The Church Office Administrator is bound by confidentiality and takes this seriously. All information relayed through the Church Office to be past on to the Minister, is only exchanged through the Minister and Office Administrator. The Office Administrator is not allowed through privacy laws to discuss members of the congregation or give out personal information unless authorized by the member of the congregation.

Although the Office Administrator is centrally located, the Office Administrator does not have all the answers for all things at Bridgewater United Church. The Committees and Ministries Chairpersons of Church Council are more knowledgeable and can provide you with the most up-to-date information on the topic requested. The Church Office can offer you contact information for those Chairpersons when requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *Bridgewater United Church Office Administrator*

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

(page 1 of 3)

In support of Bridgewater United Church's Mission, Vision and Core Values, the Faith Formation Committee seeks to meet the Faith Formation and Christian Education needs for people of all ages in the congregation.

The members of the Faith Formation Committee include Tracy Rafuse; *Chairperson and Treasurer*, Diane Barry; *Secretary* and Committee Members, Corrine Zinck, Carolyn Prince-Selig, Elizabeth Smith and Reverend Neil McEwen; *Minister*. Throughout 2023, the Faith Formation Committee met faithfully throughout the year, to discuss and organize Faith Formation events and celebrations.

Faith Formation Committee provided tulips for all the women of the congregation for Mother's Day and Coffee Crisp Chocolate Bars for all the men of the congregation for Father's Day. The Faith Formation Committee did research on the Moose Hide Campaign as we continue to work towards reconciliation. We want to continue to promote Indigenous events to our Church Community. A red dress remains in the Sanctuary to honour and bring awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women and girls, and two-spirit people who have gone missing or who have been murdered. The Moose Hide Pin Campaign recognizes that all forms of violence are unacceptable, regardless of gender. We see the disproportionate number of women who are victims and the importance of engaging men and boys in addressing this issue. Each pin sparks five conversations. The Faith Formation also purchased flags to hang in our Sanctuary windows to enhance our Affirming Space to the outside Community. We have a Progressive Pride Flag, Every Child Matters Flag, Ukraine Flag, Pan African Flag and Mi'kmaq Flag.

ANGEL TREE:

The Angel Tree Project is an Ad Hoc Committee of the Faith Formation Committee. We would like to send a huge thank you to everyone from Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater Day Care Centre, Universal Cheer Club and beyond, that helped to make a Christmas much brighter for six families, with a total of six adults and fourteen children, that we sponsored through Christmas Daddies Thank you to Diane Barry, Carolyn Price-Selig and Tracy Rafuse for prepping and arranging items for this special Outreach. The Faith Formation Committee faithfully discussed where we should donate the overage of 2022 and 2023 Angel Project funds and it was decided that South Shore Open Door's Association, Schools Plus SSRSB, South Shore Family Resource Association, Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank, Moose Hide Campaign, Canadian Mental Health Division – Lunenburg and Queens and Souls Harbour Bridgewater, who all provide wonderful supports to families and youth in our community and beyond.

BLESSING BAGS FOR SOULS HARBOUR BRIDGEWATER

Continuing with their motto, "A Random Act of Kindness," the B-United Youth Group created fifteen Blessing Bags with Personal Care Items, Snacks and Warm Outerwear for Souls Harbour Bridgewater. Souls Harbour rescues people from poverty, addiction, and despair, by offering emergency help. Thank you to all that helped to support this annual Outreach project.

BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS BOXES

Bridgewater United Church was asked to provide two hundred cans of Turkey or Chicken Gravy for the Salvation Army's Christmas Boxes. Through donations, we were able to successfully supply two-hundred cans to this Outreach. The Faith Formation Committee purchased the last remaining amount to reach our goal.

STUDENT CARE PACKAGES:

We sent twenty-two letters to students in post-secondary education with words of encouragement from our Church Community and Ministry Team which also included a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card. Included in the letter, were wishes for success in these trying times and on their final exams.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL CARING WORKSHOP:

The Faith Formation Committee supported a Multi-Generational Caring Workshop that was held on April 29th. We had forty-one people participate in the Workshop including five youth. This workshop was supposed to happen in 2020. We were blessed with Kevin Parks, Dana Pardy, Colleen Naomi, Angela Clifton and Reverend Neil McEwen as presenters. We had a lovely lunch provided by Bridgewater United UCW. It was a wonderful day.

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

(page 2 of 3)

SEND A KID TO CAMP:

Every year, Bridgewater United and Faith Formation Committee aids our youth to attend a United Church Camp. It costs \$395 to Send a Kid to Camp for a week. In 2023, we sponsored four youth, who chose between the camps, Sherbrooke Lake Camp and Camp Kidston, through donations from congregational members and funds from the Faith Formation Committee. It was discussed that donations to this Outreach Project would cover two-thirds of the cost of camp and the family would contribute one-third of the cost. This came from a directive made through Church Council. An application form is provided to all families with children in the age groups for camp in January. If more funds are needed, families will be directed to Reverend Neil McEwen. Camp experiences provide camp for kids aged 6 to 16. Campers' swim, canoe, hike, play games, camp outside, reflect and so much more. They experience an amazing week and make memories and friendships that will last forever. We also promoted Rainbow Camp Atlantic at Camp Kidston which is aimed to helping young LGBTQ people. This is a wonderful Outreach Project of Bridgewater United Church.

STUDY GROUP:

At the first of the year, we were enriched during Lent by engaging in faith-filled conversations with others. We used the United Church of Canada published resource "Good Courage" – The book aimed to inspire with honest testimonies from people who have had the courage to follow their hearts, to hope against hope, and to faithfully work towards a better world. In the fall, 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism was offered to learn and grow in our understanding and faithful response to racism in our church, community and circles of living. A joint study group between Bridgewater United and West Side United, with 23 people participating, was held in person and by Zoom. The Faith Formation Committee made a commitment to purchase one book from each Study to be placed in the Church Library.

B-UNITED LIBRARY:

The library stayed very neat and tidy this year. It was set up for meetings. A gentle reminder that any books dropped off for the library must be approved by the Ministry Team.

INTER-CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL:

The Inter-Church Youth Council has stopped holding youth functions and the funds they had in their bank account was dispersed equally to the Lutheran Camp Mush-A-Mush and Sherbrooke Lake Camp. Each camp received \$439.28.

B-UNITED YOUTH GROUP:

The B-United Youth Group is for youth in Grade 6 to Grade 12. In February, the Youth Group went bowling, where we were joined by West Side United Student Minister, Donna Kelly. Each youth brought something to replenish the Soul's Harbour Bridgewater Outside Pantry. In March, the youth had a Movie Night in the Sanctuary and watched "Onward." In June, the Youth Group cleaned up the B-United Gardens and planted flowers. Thank you to Randy Rafuse and Tracy Rafuse for your on-going commitment to our B-United Youth Group.

WORSHIP NURSERY:

We have a rocking chair and small table located in the middle of the Sanctuary for parents of small children with books and colouring sheets. We are still looking for adult volunteers with a Police Record Checks to be able to provide childcare for children under three in a room adjacent to the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School is offered to youth ages 3 to 18, with our older youth helping as teacher assistants. We continue with the curriculum created by Tracy Rafuse, which is based on the Lectionary. The classroom is structured around a scripture reading, bible story, devotional, craft and prayer. The year highlighted many wonderful topics, which allowed our Bible stories to be enriched with current events. We have been trying to incorporate Korean and French language in our lessons, so we can make sure that we are inclusive to all our youth present. Faith Formation Committee purchased a Family Children's Bible to be placed on the table in the Children's

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

(page 3 of 3)

Area in the Sanctuary. We had an Easter Egg Hunt in Sanctuary that had youth searching for Chocolate Eggs before Worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHURCH PICNIC:

The Faith Formation Committee funded the Bridgewater United Church Picnic that was held in June. The Church Picnic was fabulous. From the music to the food to the company, everyone was left feeling relaxed and full. Kevin Lohnes provided amazing catering and Stewart Franck provided wonderful music. It was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship, around our wonderful rainbow picnic tables. This is always a wonderful time for the Faith Formation Committee to show and express our appreciation and thanks to all who continue to support our Outreach projects.

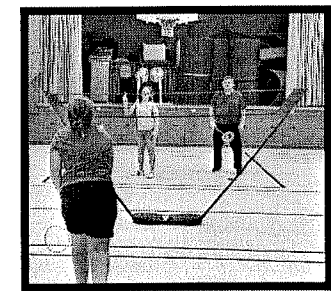
OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CAROL SING:

The Faith Formation Committee and the B-United Youth Group hosted a Christmas Carol Sing in the Chapel with Hot Chocolate and Cookies. A huge thank you to Barbara Pate for your wonderful talents on the piano and leading us in singing Christmas favourites. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON:

Throughout 2023, the Faith Formation Committee was able to provide faith-based opportunities for all our congregation. This Committee consists of amazing members who work well as a team, ensuring that all our agendas are covered and met, no matter the situation. In 2023, the Faith Formation Committee had to overcome adversities. We are looking for two more members to join our Faith Formation Committee. Our meetings are held by Zoom on the first Tuesday, every other month. We would love to have a more diverse membership on our committee. We are also looking for volunteers for Sunday School and the Worship Nursery. Your fresh ideas and commitment would be a wonderful asset. Please contact the Church Office for more information. On behalf of this Committee, we thank you for your support of our Outreach Projects throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *Chairperson*



FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

TD Chequing Savings Non-Personal Account - December 31, 2021	10,210.02
TD Special Offer GIC Investment - December 31, 2021	<u>4,364.40</u>
Total Balance Forward	14,574.42

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Offering Envelopes – Sunday School Local Fund	1,172.00	
Offering Envelopes – Mission and Service	20.00	
Faith Formation Sunday	190.00	
Bridgewater United Church Picnic	30.05	989.56
Faith Formation Projects (Unspecified)	100.00	
Angel Tree Project	2,040.00	949.80
Angel Tree Project Gift Card Donation	170.00	
Angel Tree Outreach Donations		
Blessing Bags for Soul Harbour Bridgewater	50.00	184.87
Salvation Army Christmas Boxes		53.78
Send a Kid to Camp	1,930.00	900.00
Student Care Packages	255.00	230.93
Coins for Change		
Youth@Region		
B-United Youth Group Activities		
Multi-Generational Caring Workshop		
Easter		
Mother's Day		81.70
Father's Day		22.96
Sunday School Opening		19.32
Christmas		65.90
Curriculum and Sunday School Supplies	71.08	172.01
Baptism/ Confirmation Supplies		
Study Books for B-United Library (1 copy per Study)		17.55
Bridgewater United Benevolent Fund		873.00
Donation to Mission and Service Fund		200.00
Donation to Bridgewater United Church		2,305.01
Office Supplies		59.13
Memorial to Faith Formation Committee		
Bank Interest/ Charges	2.65	12.50
HST (2021)	67.34	
Interest re: Kedy Estate (2021)	1,305.01	
TOTAL	<u>7,403.13</u>	<u>7,138.02</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

TD Chequing Savings Non-Personal Account - December 31, 2022	9,944.91
TD Special Offer GIC Investment - December 31, 2022	<u>4,407.93</u>
Balance on Hand - December 31, 2022	<u>14,352.84</u>

Respectively submitted,
 Tracy Rafuse; *Chairperson of Faith Formation Committee*
 with assistance from
 Corrine Zinck; *Past Treasurer*
 and Diane Barry; *Secretary*

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

TD Chequing Savings Non-Personal Account - December 31, 2022	9,944.91
TD Special Offer GIC Investment - December 31, 2022	<u>4,407.93</u>
Balance on Hand - December 31, 2022	<u>14,352.84</u>

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Offering Envelopes – Sunday School Local Fund	945.00	
Offering Envelopes – Mission and Service	10.00	
Faith Formation Sunday	275.00	
Bridgewater United Church Picnic		955.48
Faith Formation Projects (Unspecified)		
Angel Tree Project	2,420.00	1,638.71
Angel Tree Project Gift Card Donation		
Angel Tree Outreach Donations (2023)		350.00
Angel Tree Outreach Donations (2022)		800.00
Blessing Bags for Soul Harbour Bridgewater	40.00	319.97
Salvation Army Christmas Boxes		52.36
Send a Kid to Camp	1,835.00	900.00
Student Care Packages	175.00	239.78
Moose Hide Campaign Development Society	120.00	200.00
Coins for Change		
Youth@Region		
B-United Youth Group Activities		108.44
Multi-Generational Caring Workshop	415.00	1,445.00
Easter		39.22
Mother’s Day		64.50
Father’s Day		46.77
Sunday School Opening		
Christmas/ Old Fashioned Christmas Carol		384.37
Curriculum and Sunday School Supplies	64.98	487.07
Baptism/ Confirmation Supplies		
Study Books for B-United Library (1 copy per Study)		17.92
Bridgewater United Benevolent Fund		
Donation to Mission and Service Fund		430.00
Donation to Bridgewater United Church		
Office Supplies		
Memorial to Faith Formation Committee		
Bank Interest/Charges	2.68	
Interest re: Kedy Estate (2022)		
TOTAL	<u>6,302.66</u>	<u>8,479.59</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

TD Chequing Savings Non-Personal Account – December 31, 2023	6,767.98
TD Business Investor Account – December 31, 2023	1,019.17
TD Business Cash Back Visa – December 31, 2023	0.00
TD Special Offer GIC Investment – December 31, 2023	<u>4,407.93</u>
Balance on Hand - December 31, 2022	<u>12,195.08</u>

Respectively submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *Chairperson*

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024

The Faith Formation Committee believes that keeping a Budget is essential to helping our Committee to stay on task and continue to support our Outreach Projects.

<u>FUNDS INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2023</u>	<u>BUDGET 2023</u>	<u>BUDGET 2024</u>
Offering Envelopes – Sunday School Local Fund	945.00	900.00	800.00
Offering Envelopes – Mission and Service	10.00	50.00	25.00
Faith Formation Sunday	275.00	150.00	250.00
Bridgewater United Church Picnic		1,000.00	1,000.00
Faith Formation Projects (Unspecified)		100.00	150.00
Angel Tree Project	2,420.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Blessing Bags for Soul Harbour Bridgewater	40.00	200.00	300.00
Salvation Army Christmas Boxes		60.00	50.00
Send a Kid to Camp	1,835.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Student Care Packages	175.00	275.00	270.00
Moose Hide Campaign Development Society	120.00		
Coins for Change		50.00	50.00
Youth@Region		200.00	200.00
B-United Youth Group Activities		100.00	250.00
Multi-Generational Caring Workshop	415.00	500.00	
Easter		50.00	50.00
Mother's Day		50.00	50.00
Father's Day		50.00	50.00
Sunday School Opening		50.00	50.00
Christmas/ Old Fashioned Christmas Carol		100.00	350.00
Curriculum and Sunday School Supplies	64.98	100.00	100.00
Baptism/ Confirmation Supplies		50.00	70.00
Study Books for B-United Library (1 copy per Study)		50.00	40.00
Donation to Mission and Service Fund		200.00	200.00
Donation to Bridgewater United Church			
Office Supplies		60.00	
Bank Interest/ Charges	2.68	5.00	20.00
Interest re: Kedy Estate (2022)			
TOTAL	<u>6,302.66</u>	<u>7,350.00</u>	<u>7,525.00</u>

The Faith Formation Committee understands that most of our projects are funded by donations from the congregation and Sunday School Church envelopes. We are truly grateful that you continue to support our Committee and the Outreach opportunities we support within the Church and beyond. We will continue to faithfully serve this Community and beyond, as we continue to work by our own Bridgewater United's Vision Statement, to be followers of Jesus Christ, who value each person as equal and unique loving expressions of God with gifts and talents to share.

Respectively submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *Chairperson*

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

The Pastoral Care Team Ministry of Bridgewater United is a group of trained individuals who connect with individuals within our congregation. We have been providing this Ministry since late 2021 after taking the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program.

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team Members for Bridgewater United are:

Reverend Neil McEwen (*Lead*)
Ewart Morse
Marg Forbes
Joanne Johnson
Tracy Rafuse
Greg Bayers

As a team, we meet monthly to discuss the visits (by phone or in-person); share our experiences; offer helpful tips on offering pastoral care; provide on-going education and training; and offer support to each other. Each person on the team has up to ten people on their list to keep in contact with and this continues to shift and change as we adapt to needs that arise within the membership of our congregation. We do not meet in the months of July and August, but the Ministry of each individual continued during those months. We also share within our Team concerns and cares that arise within the broader membership of the congregation and address those needs as they arise.

One of the challenges we continue to face is information about those in hospitals. We are not always aware when individuals are in one of the local hospitals. Sometimes we only find out after they have been discharged. And sometimes we never find out at all. As visitors to the hospital, we only have access to the list of individuals who have identified as "United Church of Canada." Even though individuals may be part of our congregation, if, upon admission to hospital, they do not indicate they are "United Church," they will not appear on the list in which we have access.

The Pastoral Care Ministry requests that if you know of someone who has been admitted to hospital, please take a few moments to call the Church Office or contact a member of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team or Reverend Neil at (902) 523-5687. Please do not assume we know and don't assume someone else has contacted us. We would prefer to hear two or three times than not at all. Your assistance with this is a valuable part of the Ministry of Pastoral Care we share.

The Ministry of Pastoral Care is confidential. We have signed forms agreeing to confidentiality to respect those for whom we are privileged to be present with during our visits. We thank you for honouring the confidential information in which is entrusted to us as a team.

In December 2023, we sent out Christmas Greetings to those we have offered our Ministry too. Pastoral Care is not just the Ministry of the Team but of the entire congregation.

If you would like to join the Pastoral Care Ministry Team, please talk to Reverend Neil McEwen. The only requirement we have is that individuals take the training course provided by OPCTP (Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program.) To find out more about his program you can find it on their website, <https://ottawapastoralcare.com/>.

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Neil McEwen; *Pastoral Care Ministry Team Lead*



DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OUTREACH MINISTRY

District Representatives are assigned to a Mailing District of approximately ten households, and they are asked four times a year to deliver church letters to these congregational members under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. This not only helps with the cost of delivering these letters, but it also provides an opportunity for our Reps to check in on our members throughout the year and relay any information back to our Pastoral Care Ministry Team.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we were unable to visit people's homes, so we had to return to delivering letters by postal, which is approximately \$1,600.00 a year in postage cost, as Bridgewater United Church has approximately 323 households on our mailing list.

The District Representatives really stepped up and provided phone calls to their households and in turn, we were able to update our information for many members and provide a sense of community to those that may have been feeling disconnected to our B-United Community.

We are in need of District Representation for sixteen of our fifty-two Districts immediately! Please consider being a District Rep to one of these areas, so that B-United can make sure all our members needs are being met. Everyone on our list is important to B-United, and no one should be left behind.

Please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833 or at info@bridgewaterunited.ca, if you can volunteer for this Outreach Ministry, it would be deeply appreciated. Your service to the Church is truly needed.

Volunteer today!

- District 5 – Atlantic Street/Micmac Avenue (2 families)
- District 10 – Birch Street/Highway 325/Lake Road (3 families)
- District 15 - Dufferin Street/Pleasant Street (4 families)
- District 19 – Elm Street/LaHave Street (6 families)
- District 20 – Hillcrest Street (4 families)
- District 25 – Pine Grove Area (9 families)
- District 30 – Wileville Area (11 families)
- District 34 – Bakers Settlement/West Clifford Area (5 families)
- District 35 – Highway 10 (Cookville) (7 families)
- District 38 – Queen Street/Victoria Road/Victoria Grove (5 families)
- District 40 – Highway 3/Hirtle Road (Dayspring) (5 families)
- District 41 – Upper Branch Road (Auburndale/Midville Branch) (7 families)
- District 45 – Jay Court/Winter Street/Ross Court/Summer Crescent (5 families)
- District 46 – Hollingsworth Drive (5 families)
- District 49 – Highway 3, Highway 332 (Upper LaHave) (4 families)
- District 52 – Hirtle Drive/Porter Crescent (6 families)

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *District Representative Coordinator*

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Another year has passed and the effects of not having a Full-Time Minister have negatively affected our Church. Attendance at services continues to be low and has a major impact on our finances. There are plans to have a much-needed Full-Time Ministry here next year. We look forward to the stability this will bring.

We want to encourage each of you to reflect on the wonderful Ministry and Outreach we offer, by inviting you to consider investing your time, treasures and talents, as we all work together to fulfill our relationship and understanding of God. We need this for our personal, spiritual and mental well-being as well as our Church's financial stability.

The 2023 Finance and Stewardship Committee consisted of:

- Richard Greek; *Chairperson*
- Brenda Knox; *Secretary*
- Blake Hirtle; *Treasurer of the Congregation*
- Tracy Rafuse; *Envelope Steward*
- Greg Gatchell; *Finance and Stewardship Committee Member*
- Randall Knox; *Property Committee Representative*
- Bev. Burgess; *UCW Representative*
- Vacant; *Ways and Means Ministry Representative*

New members with an innovative or financial aptitude are always welcome.

Thanks to all Finance and Stewardship and other Committee members for their dedication and effort.

Respectively submitted,
Richard Greek; *Chairperson*

CHURCH GIVINGS 2023

CONTRIBUTION RANGE	NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS
0 - 0	6
1 - 49	6
50 - 100	9
101 - 200	12
201 - 300	15
301 - 400	11
401 - 500	14
501 - 750	22
751 - 1,000	18
1,001 - 1,500	26
1,501 - 2,500	16
2,501 - 5,000	12
5,001 - 6,000	1
6,001 - 10,000	4
10,001 - 999,999,999	0
<u>TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS:</u>	<u>172</u>



SUPPORTING BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH

Our Ministry continues – We, like all other organizations, need continued support, as we try to create a community and do create a place, where everyone belongs, and God's unconditional love is offered to the world. If you have not had an opportunity yet to do so, we invite you to consider supporting our Ministry by being part of what we are trying to create here at Bridgewater United Church. You can donate online by just going to our website, www.bridgewaterunited.ca, and click DONATE or by e-Transfer at info@bridgewaterunited.ca. You can send cheques in by mail, and you can sign up for pre-authorized remittance (PAR), again that is a great gift to our Ministry at this time, as we can rely on those sorts of consistent funds. PAR is a monthly pre-authorized bank withdrawal by Bridgewater United Church directly, that can be increased or decreased five business days before the end of the month. PAR is not only convenient, but it ensures regular monthly givings to help your Church's Ministry even when you are away. Thank you to everyone for the many blessings you offer, that helps to make our Ministry as vibrant as it is. The sharing of your talents and time with our Community is genuinely appreciated.

REMEMBERING BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH

As Christians, what we leave behind is much more than a track record of daily events. A meaningful legacy enables the gospel's message to ring clearly and ensures those who follow us will discover what it means to be Church in the present. A gift in your will or other type of legacy gift can provide Bridgewater United Church with the opportunity to explore and develop ways of undertaking Ministry differently. Support that continues beyond your lifetime lays the foundation for a stable and exciting future that will continue to bring Christ's vital and vibrant message of community, compassion, and hope to others. These gifts have enabled many of the improvements and upkeep of our facilities as well as providing for our Ministries. By establishing a bequest in your will, you can partner with future generations. Let us give thanks for those in the past who, unknown to us, have sought to have a relationship with us today; and let us become the shoulders on which the next generation will stand.

WAYS AND MEANS MINISTRY

The Ways and Means Ministry develops and promotes an annual calendar of financial stewardship programs and activities. They communicate with the Finance and Stewardship Committee and other groups to plan and/or implement fundraising events or annual financial campaigns.

After many years of leadership and support, Donna Stitt resigned as Chairperson of Ways and Means Ministry. We thank Donna for her strong commitment to Bridgewater United Church and her enthusiasm with all our fundraising efforts. All the best in your future endeavours.

In December, our 14th Annual Un-Baked Homemade Pie Sale, with Apple and Mincemeat to choose from, was held. Thank you to Yvonne Hirtle for taking on this challenging fundraiser and steer heading it to success. A huge thank you is extended to all the volunteers that showed up to make dough and assemble pies on Friday and Saturday. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive community. Without you, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Thank you so very much.

Throughout 2023, the sale of Grocery Cards continued. By participating in the Grocery Card Fundraising Program, it benefits the work of Bridgewater United Church, with every dollar you spend on your regular, everyday grocery purchases. Purchase the cards at face-value and the church receives as much as 5% of your purchase depending on the total volume purchased through the program. Every purchase, in any amount, adds to the total volume. WIN! WIN! Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraiser. Thank you to Donna Stitt and Ewart Morse for coordinating this fundraiser four times a year. We invite and encourage everyone to think about this program. It is such an easy and wonderful fundraiser for Bridgewater United.

We are looking for a Chairperson and new members for this active and important Ministry of Bridgewater United Church. Please consider volunteering today by reaching out to the Church Office if you are interested.

**Bridgewater United Church
Balance Sheet**

For the year ended
December 31 2023

2023
Actual

2022
Actual

ASSETS

CURRENT

Cash	\$ 60,220	\$ 101,052
GIC's (Note 1)	79,312	4,102
Receivable – Other	2,035	3,305
Receivable – Board of Trustees and Bridgewater Day Care	00	5,769
HST Receivable	2,171	2,848
Pre-Paid Grocery Cards	200	3,800
	\$ 143,938	\$ 120,876

LIABILITIES

CURRENT

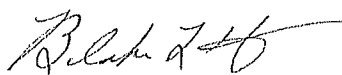
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

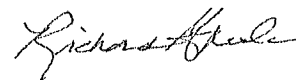
Visa Payable	\$ 13	\$ 301
Studio and BUD Network	6,811	6,811
New Ministries Initiatives	5,000	5,000
Loan payable to BUC Board of Trustees	20,000	20,000
Choir Fund	652	652
Accessible Washroom	12,500	00
	44,976	32,764

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	35,473	25,130
Building Fund	31,625	27,855
Daycare Replacement Fund	28,780	27,043
Mission Fund	3,084	8,084
	98,962	88,112
	\$ 143,938	\$ 120,876

On behalf of the Board:





**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
General Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
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RECEIPTS

GIVING FOR LOCAL EXPENSES

Regular	145,307	155,000	155,000	149,139
Special	4,235	3,000	4,000	3,535
Loose	1,118	200	1,000	855
Unspecified	00	100	100	50
Initial Envelope	160	200	150	174
Memorials to Local	1,924	1,000	1,000	5,565
Broadview	425	350	350	300
Canada Helps	285	00	00	535
Bridgewater United Digital Network	13,337	12,150	13,000	12,518
Sponsorships (Bulletin/Broadcast/Website)	3,315	4,000	3,400	3,768
	170,106	176,000	178,000	176,439

TRUST

Mission and Service	13,347	15,000	14,000	16,113
UCW to Mission and Service	3,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank	6,390	4,000	5,000	6,460
Angel Tree Project	2,420	2,000	2,000	2,040
Sherbrooke Lake Camp Receipts	1,835	1,500	1,500	1,980
Student Care Packages	175	300	300	180
Disaster Relief	2,050	2,000	2,000	4,685
Starfish Canada	00	00		450
Scouting Fund	235	100	100	00
Miscellaneous Trust Receipts	40	500	100	40
Faith Formation Receipts	530	600	600	505
	30,022	28,000	27,600	35,453

BUILDING USE

Bridgewater Day Care Centre

Share of Building Expenses	53,187	53,187	51,961	44,101
Share of Floor Maintenance	662	1,500	1,500	2,795
Share of Insurance	4,733	3,900	5,000	3,716
Wedding and Funeral Receipts	00	1,000	500	1,400
Miscellaneous Building Use	00	13	39	00
Building Facilities Usage	8,845	7,700	9,000	7,545
	67,427	67,300	68,000	59,557

**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
General Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
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RECEIPTS

MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

McIntyre Fund	00	2,200		2,000
Fundraising Projects	4,955	12,000	6,000	12,534
Interest from Manse Investment	00	3,500	00	4,000
UCW Donation	1,000	1,000	00	3,000
Investment Income	210	00	200	14
Miscellaneous Revenue	298	1,000	1,000	1,316
Kedy Estate Income	00	14,000	00	14,000
Trustees' Investment Income			20,000	

	6,463	33,700	27,200	36,864
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	274,018	305,000	300,800	308,313
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DISBURSEMENTS

DISBURSEMENTS OF GIVING IN TRUST

Mission and Service	13,347	15,000	14,000	16,113
UCW to Mission and Service	3,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank	6,390	4,000	5,000	6,460
Angel Tree Project	2,420	2,000	2,000	2,040
Sherbrooke Lake Camp Receipts	1,835	1,500	1,500	1,980
Student Care Packages	175	300	300	180
Disaster Relief	2,050	2,000	2,000	4,685
Starfish Canada	00	00		450
Scouting Fund	235	100	100	00
Miscellaneous Trust Receipts	00	500	100	300
Faith Formation Receipts	530	600	600	505

	29,982	28,000	27,600	35,713
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**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
General Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>				
PERSONNEL EXPENSES				
<u>Minister</u>				
Ministers' Salary	00	31,520	35,400	47,758
Payroll Taxes – Minister	00	2,490	2,810	3,678
Travel Expense	1,154	2,000	2,000	1,897
Pension and Benefits - Minister	00	5,760	6,465	8,721
Minister Term Supply	00	00	19,476	1,250
Ministers' Gifts	400	400	400	300
Ministerial Supply	3,126	2,320	1,044	2,188
Conference and Continuing Education	00	772	1,640	2,048
<u>Custodian</u>				
Custodian's Salary	28,209	28,210	29,600	27,280
<u>Office Administrator</u>				
Office Administrator's Salary	24,965	21,465	25,100	21,760
Payroll Taxes - Personnel	4,556	5,079	4,602	4,197
Pension and Benefits - Personnel	9,003	9,234	9,988	8,890
<u>Music Ministry</u>				
Music Ministry Director's Salary	8,325	9,000	6,000	8,325
Music Ministry Director – Supply	1,250	1,000	3,000	1,150
<u>Treasurer</u>				
Treasurer's Honourarium	3,000	3,000	3,600	3,000
<u>Other</u>				
Employees' Christmas Gift, etc.	300	200	300	200
WCB Expense	372	900	800	675
ADP Payroll Fees	353	350	375	360
Staff Development		300	300	
Pastoral Care	00	00		9,809
Bridgewater/West Side Sharing	38,532	37,800	39,400	11,844
	123,545	161,800	192,300	165,330

**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
General Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
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OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Stationary	897	1,250	1,000	956
Worship Support	1,656	1,000	1,500	759
Photocopier Lease/Supplies	1,995	2,000	2,000	1,878
Postage	1,440	2,200	2,000	2,026
Telephone and Internet	3,586	4,000	4,000	3,990
Advertising	582	650	650	636
Equipment Repairs	215	300	300	00
Bank Service Charges	670	750	750	635
Accounting Fees	00	1,000	1,000	5,551
Misc. Office and Online	2,522	2,500	2,500	2,013
Software Fees, etc.		500	00	
Unallocated General Expense	00		00	562

	13,563	16,150	15,700	19,830
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CHURCH AND CEC OPERATING EXPENSES

Fuel	32,863	40,000	38,000	34,276
Lights, Water and Sewer	12,865	14,000	14,000	13,031
Garbage Removal	876	600	800	620
Insurance	13,579	14,000	14,000	12,965
Maintenance and Repairs	5,268	5,000	5,000	3,314
Gym Floor Maintenance	883	2,000	2,000	3,756
Snow Removal and Salting	7,551	7,500	7,500	7,243
Paper Products and Cleaning Solutions	2,621	2,200	2,500	1,962
Alarm Monitoring & Maintenance	1,079	1,800	1,800	1,484
Miscellaneous	303	1,000	500	00
Memorial Garden Maintenance	1,690	1,800	1,800	1,781
Heating System Repairs	1,940	1,000	1,100	1,711
Janitorial Services (Subcontracting Jaspro)	1,908	1,500	2,000	1,309

	83,426	92,400	91,000	83,452
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**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
General Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES				
Radio Broadcast Service	1,909	1,929	1,930	00
Online Service Studio				00
Inter-Church Council	00	00	00	00
Broadview	325	00	00	325
Miscellaneous	(19)	00	00	00
United Church of Canada Allocation	10,711	10,771	10,830	10,720
Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank	00	00	00	00
Food/Supplies - Receptions	131	200	200	00
Wedding and Funeral Expenses	00	500	500	1,100
Affirming Church	101	200	200	101
	13,158	13,600	13,660	12,246
Total Disbursements	263,674	311,950	340,260	316,571
Total Receipts	274,018	305,000	300,800	308,313
Operating Surplus (Loss)	10,344		(39,460)	(8,258)
Fund Balance – Beginning of Year	25,130			\$33,388
Fund Balance – End of Year	35,473			\$25,310

**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
Building Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2022 Actual
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RECEIPTS

Contributions from Congregation	5,475	6,000	6,000	5,973
United Church Extension Bd.	00			1,847
United Church Region 15 Grant	00	00		7,500
Donation – re: Accessible Washroom			55,000	
United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints				
The Hunter Fund and various UCC Funding		40,000	40,000	
	5,475	46,000	101,000	15,320

DISBURSEMENTS

2024 PROJECTS

1. Replace and insulate Backdoor Wall by Lobby			8,000	
2. Replace Air Reset Control		1,119		
3. Upgrade AC Window Units to Heat Pumps		5,000	7,000	
4. Upgrade Electric Hot Water to Heat Pump		5,216		
5. Upgrade Interior Thermostats and Controls	1,570	6,000		
6. Replace weather stripping on all Exterior Doors and wherever needed		8,000	4,000	
7. Replace Choir Loft Windows and Cloakroom Windows with Thermopane Argon Gas		10,150	16,000	
8. Upgrade Building Insulation: re: caulk windows, replace rotting wood and various exterior repairs		4,515	5,000	
9. Accessible Front Washroom	135		55,000	
10. Heating System Audit Report				9,347
11. Replace CE Ceiling Fans				1,646
	1,705	40,000	95,000	10,993

Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	3,770	00	00	4,327
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Fund Balance – Beginning of Year	27,855	00	00	23,528
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Transfer to Building Fund	00	00	00	00
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Fund Balance – End of Year	31,625	00	00	27,855
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Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
Day Care Replacement Fund

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
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RECEIPTS

Contributions from Day Care through General Fund	1,737	1,625
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DISBURSEMENTS

	00	00
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	1,737	1,625
Fund Balance – Beginning of Year	27,043	25,418

Fund Balance – End of Year	28,780	27,043
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Fund Balance Allocation

Floor Replacement	11,822	11,197
Parking Lot	13,368	12,590
Furnace Replacement	3,590	3,256
	28,780	27,043

**Bridgewater United Church
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
B.U.C. Brigade Mission Trip Mission Fund**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
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RECEIPTS

Contributions and Fundraising	00	2,384
	00	2,384

DISBURSEMENTS

Servant's Heart Ministries	5,000	6,000
Janet Tanner	00	00
Halifax Promotion	00	00
Bev. Burgess (for Mission Trip Supplies)	00	00
	5,000	6,000

Excess of Disbursements over Receipts	5,000	(3,616)
Fund Balance – Beginning of Year	00	11,700
Fund Balance – End of Year	3,084	8,084

**Bridgewater United Church
Notes to Financial Statements**

For the year ended December 31	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
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1. Investments

The carrying of investments is comprised of the following:

Money Market GIC - # 8021776-20	4,104.64	4,102
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-23	25,096.67	
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-24	25,110.41	
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-25	25,000.00	
	<hr/> 79,311.72	<hr/> 4,102

Bridgewater United Church
Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

1. Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the financial information is on the historical cost basis, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of:

- accounts receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts, if applicable;
- accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Cash receipts and disbursements are allocated to the various funds based on the following criteria:

- Building Fund – contributions received from members of the congregation which are specified to be used for large repairs or capital improvements to the church building, and related expenditures.
- Day Care Replacement Fund – comprised of the building usage allocation received from the Day Care, to be used for major improvements or capital work as required.
- Mission Fund – contributions received from the congregation or raised by the Mission Group with local Servant’s Heart Ministries as part of an Outreach program.
- General Fund – all other non-specified contributions and expenditures that do not belong to the other funds, that are used directly to operate the church.

Non-cash items, just as loan forgiveness, that impact the fund balances are recognized as a direct reduction of the fund balance and are not included in the statement of receipts and expenditures.

2. Short Term Investments

The carrying amounts of investments are comprised of the following:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-20	\$ 4,104	\$ 4,102
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-23	25,097	
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-24	25,111	
Money Market GIC - # 8021776-25	<u>25,000</u>	
	<u>\$ 79,312</u>	

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2023 membership of Property Committee includes:

Randall Knox; *Chairperson*
Bob Forbes; *Secretary*
Sam Elsworth
Kevin Morrison
Ivan Rodenhiser; *Facility Key Co-Ordinator*
Tracy Rafuse; *Facility and Rental Co-Ordinator*
Blake Hirtle; *Funding Co-Ordinator for Matters Related to Cost Recovery Tenants*
Vacant; *Board of Trustees Liaison*

CBCL recommendations have been put on hold pending approval of 50% financing from The Hunter Church Building Fund. Faithful Footprints have approved the other 50% financing.

On going furnace work to control the heat such as reprogramming the furnace, replacing manual thermostats and making sure actuators are working had mixed results.

Some maintenance projects include replacing oil tank vacuum gauge, sanding and painting oil tank, cutting bushes on back hill, cleaning sanctuary carpet, cleaning cloth chairs, keeping on top of the many yearly inspections and repairing roof leaks all kept Committee members and helpers busy.

A quote from a contractor has been accepted for an accessible washroom in the coat room off the Narthex to be completed in 2024, thanks to a generous donor.

Renting/use of the facility has been a challenge because of existing kitchen policies.

A special thank you to Denise McAuley (Director of Bridgewater Day Care Centre and Unofficial Member of BUC Property Committee) for all the things she does on a daily basis (from operating the furnace to plunging toilets and everything in between) to keep the facility operating.

Respectfully submitted,
Randall Knox; *Chairperson*

GREETERS

Bridgewater United Church is always on the lookout for Greeters. Every Sunday, B-United asks for two volunteers to be Greeters for our On-Site Worship Service. Greeters provide a welcoming face when people enter our building, and make sure that each person feels safe, while present in our Sanctuary. The need for volunteers is profoundly important. If you see this Ministry calling you, please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833, to be directed to our Greeter Coordinator. A huge thank you is extended to Dale Elsworth for your dedicated work of getting volunteers for our Worship Services. Thank you also to all those that have committed to volunteering to this Ministry. You are truly appreciated.



SPECIAL USHERING

This Committee supplies ushering for funerals held at Bridgewater United Church. We would like to thank those members who have given their time to support our families during their time of grief. We invite other members to add their names to the list. If you feel this Ministry is providing a calling to you, please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833, to be directed to our Greeter Coordinator.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

United Church Women have four pillars they follow – Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service. Many projects have been initiated and completed locally, provincially and nationally with these pillars in mind.

With the help of the units of UCW, we were able to support the following local projects: Schools Plus Emergency Fund, Souls Harbour, Sherbrooke Lake Camp, Local Women's Shelter and helping other churches knit mittens for the schools. UCW donated to Linus Nova Scotia, Brunswick Street Mission, Grandmothers to Grandmothers (Stephen Lewis Foundation,) Starfish Canada and the United Church Mission and Service.

Our members have enjoyed devotions at all meetings provided by the Units and have followed The Fellowship of the Least Coin and literature from Broadview Magazine and National UCW. They have enjoyed gathering weekly in the Chapel for Coffee, Conversation and Crafts – knitting and sewing. The BUC Quilters meet monthly. Prayer Shawl is another ministry of UCW – they gave forty-three Prayer Shawls to people experiencing grief, sickness or just loneliness this year.

Labels were made and put on the banners that hang in the church and the hangings for the changing seasons of the church and coverings were provided for these hangings.

Members helped knit blankets, make a quilt and sew labels on quilts and blankets made for the Linus Project that gives them to children and youth suffering from many different emergencies.

Faith and Action Committee sent thirty-four ill, sympathy and Christmas cards to members of the congregation. Social Committee provided help with four funerals, anniversary and choir fest.

UCW and the Units were busy this year with the following: World Day of Prayer, Mission and Service Sunday Service, Ham Take-Out Supper, Annual Kitchen Cleaning, No-Bake Sale and Christmas Bazaar.

UCW Life Memberships were given to Judy Marshall from Arts and Crafts Unit and Jean Schofield from Unit 7.

If you enjoy knitting, sewing, baking or just fellowship, please join any or all of the UCW units.

Thank you to everyone who helped UCW to achieve our goals this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Rowter; *UCW Co-President and Secretary*

UCW 2023

Ruth Rudderham	President
Linda Rowter	Co-President
Beverly Burgess	Co-President
Beverly Burgess	Treasurer
Linda Rowter	Secretary



3 C's (COFFEE, CONVERSATION AND CRAFTS)

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10:00am - 12:00pm, coffee treats and conversation (any topic) is offered in the Chapel. Tables are set up for one to gather with friends to knit, sew, do a craft or just have coffee and conversation. The coffee pot is always on. All are welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Patten; *UCW Member*

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2022

\$1,738.14

	EXPENSES	RECEIPTS
Mission & Service	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,569.45
Mission & Service Sunday		\$ 975.00
Grandmothers/Grandmothers	\$ 500.00	
Starfish	\$ 500.00	
Christmas Stockings		\$ 155.00
Bean Supper	\$ 355.89	\$ 1,585.00
BUC Allotment	\$ 1,000.00	
Catering Funeral Receptions	\$ 773.05	\$ 650.00
Catering	\$ 910.06	\$ 1,845.00
"No Bake" Bake Sale		\$ 1,860.00
Christmas Bazaar	\$ 142.29	\$ 2,546.00
Fellowship of the Least Coin	\$ 130.00	\$ 130.00
Donations		\$ 1,900.00
Memorial Donation		\$ 530.00
Life Memberships	\$ 138.40	
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 512.29	\$ 35.00
New Tablecloths	\$ 98.19	
Church Bulletin Sponsorship	\$ 70.00	
Bank Service Charge	\$ 59.47	\$ 28.77
Church Calendars	\$ 129.20	\$ 150.00
Appreciation Gift	\$ 100.00	
Broadview Magazine	\$ 50.00	
Schools Plus Emergency Fund	\$ 1,000.00	
Linus Project Nova Scotia	\$ 1,000.00	
Souls Harbour Bridgewater	\$ 1,000.00	
Sherbrooke Lake Camp	\$ 300.00	
Brunswick Street Mission	\$ 600.00	
UCW National Office	\$ 43.00	
Maritime UCW	\$ 129.00	
TOTAL	\$ 12,540.84	\$ 13,959.22

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023

\$3,156.52

**Funds held in reserve for Dishwasher repairs \$1,000.00

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Burgess; *Treasurer*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY ~ AN OUTREACH OF UCW

On the third Sunday of the month, a small group meets in the Bridgewater United Church Parlour to knit or crochet and create their expressions of God's love through the ministry of a shawl.

At their time of completion, the shawls are blessed, remembering the hands who made them and those who will receive them. To date, there has been forty-seven given to provide comfort to persons in sickness, bereavement and a celebration of retirement. If you know of someone who would appreciate a shawl, be sure to obtain one from the Prayer Shawl Cabinet.

Anyone who wishes to join this group from this congregation is welcome to come along and experience the warmth of this fellowship and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Patten; *UCW Member*

RADIO BROADCAST MINISTRY

Our regular Worship Service is broadcast over CKBW Radio (98.1FM) on the fourth Sunday of each month, but sometimes can also be heard on the third Sunday of the month. Each broadcast is made possible through the courtesy of CKBW and by those who wish to sponsor a broadcast in memory of a relative or friend. Broadcasts are widely appreciated by many and can be sponsored by one or more families. The fee per broadcast is two hundred dollars. You may contact the Church Office if you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast.

BE UNITED DIGITAL MINISTRIES

Here at Bridgewater United, we have tried to maintain some normalcy, in a very un-normal world. We provide a BUD Digital Ministry package for New West Pine United, Caledonia Pastoral Charge and St. Andrews-St. Marks United, so these Churches can hold Worship Services at the own church, once or twice a month, depending on the contract we have signed with them. This provides these churches with video elements from Bridgewater United Church such as a Welcome, Message, Prayers, Offertory and a bulletin.

Bridgewater United Church provides Online Services as well as our weekly On-Site Worship Services. On the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month, we provide a Podcast of archived On-Site Sermons and on the 2nd and 4th Sunday we provide an Online Video Service on our YouTube channel.

We have wonderful volunteers that make up our BUD Online Ministries. Todd Langille, David Barnes, Evan Rafuse, Tracy Rafuse and David Doggett, help to create meaningful and creative service with Reverend Neil McEwen and the Music Ministry of Barbara Pate.

Our BUD Production Team is solely based on a lot of volunteer hours, and we are so lucky to have a team that can work so well, while remotely. In April 2022, we recognized that our focus was slowly returning to Worship Within Our Community, putting energy into our Sunday Services at 10:30am, and creating an online presence still for those who are unable to attend in person. Also, as our On-Site Services are edited, the Audio files of those services, sermons and bulletins, are posted to our website at www.bridgewaterunited.ca, for your listening and reading pleasure.

Things are moving forward with grace and kindness at Bridgewater United, and we hope that you will continue to journey with us for a vibrant and more energetic 2024, where all are welcome in our midst.

Thank you to David Barnes for his continued guidance and help with editing the services for both Audio and DVD distribution. If you would like a copy of our services in Audio or DVD form, please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833 or by email at info@bridgewaterunited.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rafuse; *Be United Digital Ministries Administrator*

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE

Bridgewater Day Care, an outreach of the Bridgewater United Church, operates as a non-profit organization, licensed for 90 childcare spaces. The Day Care Centre's revenue is received from two main sources, parent fees and public funding through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada. The Centre participates in the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Initiative program.

Special activities the children and staff took part in this year were: March Break theme days, South Shore Exhibition Parade, Fire Prevention activities, Halloween and Christmas events, as well as a visit from the Lumberjacks hockey team and the Wantaga Group (African drumming and dance.) The Centre received designation in March 2023 to be part of the Atlantic Immigration Program. Staff contributed to the United Way of Lunenburg County through payroll deduction program. Families and staff supported the Bridgewater United Church Angel Tree, Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank and Soul's Harbour Mission with generous donations.

In July, the Centre said goodbye to Megan McAuley and in August, Kaitlyn Wentzell started a one-year leave of absence. Centre staff mentored ECE students from MSVU and NSCC; as well as high school co-op students from New Germany Regional High and Park View Education Centre. Karen Slauenwhite upskilled her ECE classification to a Level 2. The Collective Agreement with unionized staff was agreed upon and signed for a three and a 1/4-year period, expiring on March 31, 2027. May saw the return of the Caring At Work Dinner for Early Childhood Educators in Lunenburg and Queens County. Staff and volunteers attended the West Side Dinner Theatre in November. Professional development opportunities that staff engaged in were Emergency First Aid and CPR, Culturally Responsive Practice, NS Infant Training modules 1 and 2, Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing and various on-line workshops. The Centre participates in the Pyramid Model training - in which a framework of evidence-based practices are used for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development. Ad-hoc committee was formed to review and update Centre policies and procedures in 2023, this project will continue into 2024.

Major expenses – Repairs to fridge and toilets. Purchases – Office photocopier. Other - painted the school age classrooms, trimmed trees, bushes and added mulch to the playground.

CURRENT DAY CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Karen Crouse; <i>Chairperson</i>	Donna Burke; <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	Daphne Egilsson; <i>Secretary</i>
Catherine Crocker; <i>Treasurer</i>	Amy Cahoon-Swim	Angela Bryan
Erin Kelly	Heather Morrison	Brian Buck
Denise McAuley		

CURRENT PARENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Amy Cahoon-Swim	Barb Corkum	Catherine Crocker
Erin Kelly	Denise McAuley	

CURRENT DAY CARE STAFF MEMBERS:

PERMANENT:

Denise McAuley; <i>Director</i>	Bernice Mailman; <i>Assistant Director</i>	Jennifer Chase
Barb Corkum	Cindy Fitton	Briana Fletcher
Peggy Fraughton	Lovepreet Kaur	Beth MacLeod
Amanda Nauss	Jodi-Lynn Nauss	Charlene Rafuse
Nicola Rafuse	Jill Rhodenizer	Karen Sainsbury; <i>Cook</i>
Karen Slauenwhite	Kaitlyn Wentzell	

TERM:

Josie Skinner

SUBSTITUTES:

Dayna Clattenburg	Kennedy Crowe	Caitlyn Doucette
Brenda Hebb	Heather Riach	Jaden Selig
Kaitlyn Smith	Jasmine Teal	

PERMANENT VOLUNTEERS:

Heather Bowes	Tracey Browne
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Respectfully submitted,
Karen E. Crouse; *Chairperson*



INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Committee Members of Bridgewater Day Care Centre

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Bridgewater Day Care Centre which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

Note 3 describes the capitalization policy with respect to the Centre's capital assets. The note indicates that capital assets are expensed as acquired and that the Centre is not reducing costs of capital assets by government assistance received relating to their acquisition. In this respect, the financial statements are not in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations which require the Centre to record capital assets at cost, net of any government assistance relating to its acquisition, and amortize this net cost over the useful life of the asset, or defer the government assistance and amortize it to income on the same basis as the related capital asset. Government assistance relating to the acquisition of capital assets is included in revenue in the period that the related asset is purchased. The effect of these departures from Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations on these financial statements are not determinable as records of the costs and useful life of assets acquired since inception are not maintained. Our review conclusion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified because of the effects of this departure from Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Halifax

Chester

Bridgewater

Liverpool

Shelburne

Barrington Passage

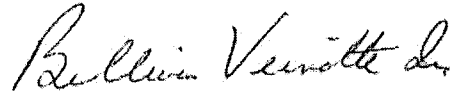
Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report to the Committee Members of Bridgewater Day Care Centre (continued)

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Conclusion* paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Bridgewater Day Care Centre as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our qualified conclusion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describes that the Bridgewater Day Care Centre is a committee of the Bridgewater United Church. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Bridgewater United Church to comply with financial reporting requirements related to the funding from the Province of Nova Scotia. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Trustees and Members of the Bridgewater United Church and the Province of Nova Scotia and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Trustees and Members of the Bridgewater United Church and the Province of Nova Scotia.



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
January 23, 2024

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE
(A Committee of the Bridgewater United Church)
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 148,174	\$ 130,388
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	32,701	16,639
Prepaid expenses	7,884	7,340
	\$ 188,759	\$ 154,367
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 20,678	\$ 23,542
Employee deductions payable	20,807	45,875
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	34,661	38,863
	76,146	108,280
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	112,093	44,737
Internally restricted (Note 7)	520	1,350
	112,613	46,087
	\$ 188,759	\$ 154,367

CONTINGENT LIABILITY (Note 13)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Karen E. Brouse

Director

Donna K. Burke

Director

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE
(A Committee of the Bridgewater United Church)
Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Proposed Budget 2024 (Note 9)	Budget 2023 (Note 9)	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
REVENUE				
Parents' fees	\$ 276,092	\$ 227,869	\$ 272,976	\$ 383,601
Quality investment grant	350,000	324,095	353,535	278,118
Early Learning and Child Care program fee reduction funding	331,382	312,000	364,902	147,451
Provincial subsidy	55,000	86,000	55,728	92,187
Program support fund grant	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500
Inclusion support grant	51,369	35,235	51,273	36,193
Infant incentive grant	17,065	8,352	17,688	8,344
Summer student grant	4,700	7,950	4,633	3,187
Donations	-	-	27	532
Miscellaneous	-	-	3,076	1,093
	1,111,108	1,026,801	1,149,338	976,206
EXPENDITURES				
Accounting fees	3,000	2,500	3,763	3,198
Advertising and promotion	50	50	-	-
Bad debts	-	500	-	433
Building use assessment (Note 10)	53,781	54,924	54,924	45,726
Equipment	5,000	4,000	7,239	452
Garbage removal	3,380	2,500	3,503	2,479
Gifts and donations	2,500	1,400	2,909	888
Groceries	48,000	44,000	45,014	43,416
Insurance	3,950	3,800	4,055	3,604
Interest and bank charges	900	960	793	926
Janitorial supplies	8,000	9,000	6,759	8,044
Leasehold improvements	1,000	1,000	1,391	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	570	-
Office	8,806	8,307	8,218	8,138
Programming supplies	2,500	2,500	2,585	2,153
Repairs and maintenance	2,000	2,000	4,881	7,165
Staff training and travel	3,600	3,600	1,522	895
Supplies	100	100	48	85
Travel	-	-	150	-
Support service volunteers	1,560	1,300	1,470	1,300
Telephone	3,300	3,100	3,147	2,986
Wages and benefits	959,681	881,260	929,871	797,373
	1,111,108	1,026,801	1,082,812	929,261
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,526	\$ 46,945

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE
(A Committee of the Bridgewater United Church)
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	2023	2022
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 44,737	\$ 1,350	\$ 46,087	\$ (858)
Excess of revenue over expenditures	66,526	-	66,526	46,945
Transfer to unrestricted (Note 7)	830	(830)	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 112,093	\$ 520	\$ 112,613	\$ 46,087

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

BRIDGEWATER DAY CARE CENTRE
(A Committee of the Bridgewater United Church)

Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 66,526	\$ 46,945
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(16,062)	(615)
Prepaid expenses	(544)	(917)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,864)	9,722
Employee deductions payable	(25,068)	31,597
Deferred contributions	(4,202)	(26,303)
	(48,740)	13,484
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	17,786	60,429
Cash - beginning of year	130,388	69,959
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 148,174	\$ 130,388

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

1. PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The Bridgewater Day Care Centre (the "Centre") is a committee of the Bridgewater United Church, a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada, which is a registered charity. The Centre operates a public daycare in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. Revenue is received through parent fees and government subsidies and grants.

2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

These financial statements reflect the accounts of the Bridgewater Day Care Centre only and consequently do not include all the assets, liabilities, income and expenses of the Bridgewater United Church, a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada, of which the Centre is a committee.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Revenue recognition

Bridgewater Day Care Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Government grants are recorded when the amount is measurable, and there is reasonable assurance that the Centre has complied with, and will continue to comply with, all the necessary conditions to obtain the grants.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and balances with banks.

(continues)

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2023

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Capital assets

The Bridgewater Day Care Centre owns kitchen, office, classroom and playground equipment.

It is the Centre's policy to expense capital assets as acquired. During the year, the Centre incurred capital expenditures not funded specifically by grants of \$4,916 (2022 - \$452).

Government assistance

Government assistance relating to the acquisition of capital assets is included in revenue in the period that the related asset is purchased.

Donated services

Volunteers contribute about 1,560 hours per year to assist the Bridgewater Day Care Centre in carrying out its services. Honorariums to support service volunteers of \$1,470 (2022 - \$1,300) were paid during the year. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair market value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements for any amount above the honorariums paid.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial instruments are reported at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable.

4. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Centre currently generates a significant portion of its revenue from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of the Province of Nova Scotia by way of subsidies and grants. During the year, the Centre received approximately \$668,626 (2022 - \$587,793) representing 76% (2022 - 60%) of total revenue. As such, the Centre is dependent on the Province of Nova Scotia for their continued viability.

5. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
Parent fees	\$ 2,531	\$ 3,183
Province of Nova Scotia - Quality Investment Grant	25,675	9,000
Province of Nova Scotia - subsidy	2,904	3,109
HST rebate	1,591	1,347
	\$ 32,701	\$ 16,639

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions represent externally restricted operating funds that are related to the subsequent period. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2023	2022
Deferred contributions - beginning of year	\$ 38,863	\$ 65,166
Less: amount recognized as revenue in the year	(38,863)	(65,166)
Add: parents' fees received related to the following year	10,389	11,805
Add: grants available for use in following year	24,272	27,058
Deferred contributions - end of year	\$ 34,661	\$ 38,863

7. INTERNALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTION

During the year, the committee members internally restricted net assets of \$Nil (2022 - \$786) to be used for special activities and approved expenditures of \$830 (2022 - \$770) to be used for special activities. Internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the committee members.

8. PER DIEM OPERATING COST

	2023	2022
CHILD CARE DAYS		
Subsidized	3,669	4,893
Non-subsidized	15,030	13,517
Total child care days	18,699	18,410
Total operating cost divided by child care days equals	\$ 57.91	\$ 50.48

9. FINANCIAL FORECASTS

The figures under the "Proposed Budget 2024" and "Budget 2023" columns in the statement of operations are provided for information purposes only. The 2023 budget was approved by the Committee on and is waiting for approval from the Bridgewater United Church.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Centre operates in part of the Bridgewater United Church and pays annual building assessment fees for its share of operating costs (2023 - \$54,924; 2022 - \$45,726).

11. INCOME TAXES

The Bridgewater Day Care Centre, being a committee of the Bridgewater United Church, is exempt from income taxes under Section 149 of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

12. MANAGEMENT OF NET ASSETS

Bridgewater Day Care Centre's objective in managing its net assets is to remain a sustainable operation while fulfilling its overall mandate of being a not-for-profit day care centre. It achieves its objective by strong day-to-day management of its cash flows, and by regularly monitoring revenue and expenditures against its annual operating and capital budgets. When necessary, the Bridgewater Day Care Centre takes prompt action to reduce expenditures or curtail programs when actual revenues do not meet its budget and alternate sources of revenue cannot be found.

13. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

Permanent employees are entitled to be paid for accumulated sick days. At termination of employment, accumulated sick days are forfeited. At December 31, 2023, a potential sick leave liability of \$55,575 exists based on the cost of replacement staff.

14. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Centre is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Centre's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2023.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Centre is exposed to credit risk from parents. In order to reduce its credit risk, the Centre conducts regular reviews of its existing parents' credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts, historical trends and other information. The Centre has a significant number of parents which minimizes concentration of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Centre is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers and other related sources and accounts payable.

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

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Bridgewater United Church has been the sponsor of 3rd Bridgewater Scout Group Committee since both were formed in 1946. Scouting has been a familiar activity at 87 Hillcrest since 1963 when the Christian Education Centre was opened. Over the past 70+ years, a great number of people of our congregation have passed through the embrace of 3rd Bridgewater, either as youth or as adult volunteers, and some as both. Our reporting basis has moved from the school year to the calendar year.

BEAVER SCOUTS

As a newly reestablished Colony in October 2022, following a hiatus due to COVID-19, we entered 2023 with five newly invested leaders and ten new Beaver Scouts... and we have hit the pond swimming! Our winter program cycle focused on earning the "Beavers of the World" badge. We celebrated Chinese New Year, learned about Scouting founder, Lord Baden-Powell and raced "Beaver Buggies." We also went on a winter hike at the Woodland Gardens and sledding at the MARC.

Our spring program cycle introduced the Beavers to fire safety. We spent a few evenings learning campfire safety, culminating with a trip to the Bridgewater Fire Station. We had a visit from the Lunenburg County Ground Search and Rescue team who taught their "Hug a Tree and Survive" program. It educated the Beavers on how not to become lost in the woods, and what to do should they become lost to help them survive. We also spent meetings learning about the compass and how to orienteer. We even made a Geocache location at the Woodland Gardens in Bridgewater! We earned our "Earth Beaver" badge by participating in a garbage clean up for Earth Day, going Tree Planting and planting seeds in cups to grow at home. We invested four new Beaver Scouts and added three Scouters to our Colony.

When we reconvened for the Fall, we had two of our white tail beavers "Swim Up" to the Cub Scouts program. With the warmer weather, we prioritised working on outdoor adventure skills. We went on a nature walk at Miller Point Peace Park to learn about plant identification; we went sailing in the Lunenburg Harbour on the Eastern Star, and we had an Astronomy Night at the MARC where we looked through telescopes to study the sky. Our fall investiture ceremony added two more beavers to our colony and six leaders received their woggles recognizing their completion of Wood Badge 1. Our Colony participated in Apple Day, a Scouting tradition since 1932. On November 11th, we attended the Bridgewater Remembrance Day service. To wrap up the year, we went carolling at Riverview Enhanced Living and at our Christmas Party, we honoured Bill Somers and Barbara Wicks for their many years of dedicated service to Scouts Canada. We want to give a special "Thank You!" to the Bridgewater United Church for the use of your facility and continued support in helping make new adventures in Scouting happen.

CUB SCOUTS

In 2023, the Cub Pack camped twice at Scout Camp Mush-a-Mush – once for a winter camp in January and again for a summer camp in June. Highlights of these camps were that Cubs learned how to start a fire and Cubs kayaked to Sweetland Beach. Along with the Beaver colony and Scout Troop, we raced Kub Kars at the church gym in March. The Ember Guiding group watched these races and then built their own later, in which they raced the cubs once they were ready. The Cub Pack also received a badge from Hike Nova Scotia and the Municipality of Lunenburg for completing four hikes on municipally maintained trails. The trails the Cub Pack hiked were Indian Path Common, Gaff Point, Arthur Young Trail and the trail system at the MARC. Cubs started back in the fall in October after securing a new leader with twelve registered youth. Cubs participated in the Apple Day fundraiser, hiked the River Ridge Common and participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony.

SCOUTS

Our Scouting year commenced with five youth, three returning, two advanced from Cubs. Two additional youth joined over the course of the winter for a complement of seven youth. We had a Bring a Friend event early in the year which resulted in the recruitment of one of the new youth members. We had three Scouts leaders supporting both the Venturer and Scout program on the same evening in an effort to maintain the necessary two Scouter ratio. This provided numerous linking opportunities by running joint activities to work

on the Youth Leadership Training for both groups. Three youth in Scouts successfully completed the training this year.

Camp and outdoor experiences dominate our program. The winter camp was held at the Bennes' Ponhook Lake property in February. The theme for this was the Scouts Canada Dragon Trails Quest program and all youth attending completing the challenge. We had an opportunity to build a quinzhee, make a troll cake and have an egg drop challenge. New youth worked on knife and saw/axe permits. The spring camp was Star Wars themed and involved skills development with atlatl throwing, fire building, compass work and axe and knife permit work. The summer camp was held at Smiley's Provincial Park. Financial assistance for this event was provided by the local TD Branch. The highlight of this camp was attending On Tree despite very rainy weather. We held our annual Scout Auction that provides our youth an opportunity to obtain camping related gear. Through these and other activities, three new youth obtained the first levels in their camping and trails outdoor adventure skills badges. We participated actively in fundraisers with Scout Seeds and Scout Tree planting in the spring. We assisted in cleanup of the church property cleaning up felled brush at the back of the property

In September, we welcomed a new youth from Cubs while an older youth progressed to Venturers. The highlight event from the fall was the provincial camp at Camp Nedooae in Elderbank, the Nova Scotia Fire Builder. This was very well attended, with all but one coming to the event. The youth participated in the Nedooae Cup Challenge and enjoyed learning bridge building pioneer skills, a brief canoe basics instruction and a paddle on the lake and archery.

The Scouts have also created a geocache registered on geocache.com and have placed it on the church property with permission of the property management committee. It is being monitored on a regular basis. We participated in the Apple Day fundraiser for the group in October and Colour Party for 3rd Bridgewater at the Remembrance Day services in November. December ended with our annual sleepover at the church. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in recruiting new leaders to start the program in January, so it will go on hiatus until a new leader completes his training.

VENTURER SCOUTS

The Venturer section started the year with three youth and one full-time leader, assisted by a part-time leader. We were able to recruit a fourth youth who moved up from the Scout level. Monday meeting times were shared with the Scouts. The Venturers undertook a diverse variety of activities over the past year. I will review some of the highlights.

The youth wished to undertake a STEM project by building a Trebuchet. This involved researching design, using mathematical formulas for scaling, construction, and ending with successful testing. The final design was about 5 feet tall, with an 8 foot arm, and a counterweight of rocks. The youth are now able to launch a projectile over 150 feet.

Numerous camps took place with different focuses. Some camps revolved around improving outdoor adventure skills in the four seasons. Other camps provided opportunities to work on the Trebuchet and Scout Pioneering Skills. A highlight for the youth was a February winter camp in Halifax with other groups and a spring camp at Smiley's Provincial Park with a trip to On Tree. In the fall was the provincial camp at Camp Nedooae in Elderbank, the Nova Scotia Fire Builder. Three Venturers attended and independently participated in the Nedooae Cup Challenge; an assortment of scouting skill testing stations. Isaac, Liam and Evan were so successful that they are now the Provincial Champions!

To help support our outings and camps, we participated actively in fundraisers with Scout Seeds and Scout Tree planting in the spring. The fall saw us participating in Apple Day. We also assisted in cleanup of the church property, cleaning up felled brush at the back of the property. We are actively seeking new youth aged 15-17 to join Venturers. If you know anyone who may be interested please send them along and we will arrange for them to come and join us for a few meetings.

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

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ROVER SCOUTS

There were six Rovers registered for the 2023 season and four Advisors. One Rover had aged out, but became an Advisor. Rovers were busy during the year providing service. One Rover continues to be a Cub Scout leader with the Bridgewater pack. In January, Rovers had a Diaper Party for new mum, Rover Zoe Silver, who gave birth to a baby boy in December 2022. They also had a Pizza and Glow Bowling night. February brought Scout Sunday and also offer of service at The Council Winter Camp, held at Camp Harris this year. The theme was Star Wars vs Harry Potter. Rovers assisted with first aid, cooking and program planning. In May, Rovers played a key role in the organization of the Council Youth awards ceremony and weekend skills camp at Camp Nadoae. They also provided first aid coverage Saturday night and Sunday for groups who camped overnight.

Three Rovers received special awards. Ryan Matthews received the Jack Cornwell Award; Ben Foote received the Canadian Rover Award and Katharina Wile received the Medal of the Maple.

In July, Rovers assisted Emergency Scouts with first aid coverage for Rib Fest at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth and in August, Rock the Harbour event. In August, Rovers held an end of summer camp out. In October, Rovers volunteered at Halcon in Halifax. This marks the 6th year volunteering at this event. Unfortunately, we were unable to assist the Legion with poppy sales this year due to an Advisors back surgery.

Two Rovers attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Bridgewater, three attended in Western Shore. Two Rovers and one Advisor will be attending the Essex International Jamboree as offer of service in England in July 2024. They will be travelling with 1st Wolfville Scout Troop. They have participated with Wolfville in a fundraising raffle, over \$700 was raised towards their expenses. The event will cost \$3500 per individual. Plans for 2024 include glow bowling, winter camp, first aid recertification and the regular yearly camps and service events. They may also attend Lodges and Lairs as offer of service in May.

This will be the last season for Advisors Gwen, Harold, Linda and Eve, finishing with 3rd Bridgewater in August of 2024. They are also registered with 1st Wolfville and will be continuing their Scouting there. As always, the Rover Scouts extend our sincere thanks to the Bridgewater United Church for their support of our youth and program for 2023.

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

2023 saw the retirement of Bill Somers as Treasurer after twenty-nine years in Scouting. We thank him for his fine work and for mentoring Lori Nauss as his replacement. A plaque was presented to honour the occasion. 2023 also saw the presentation of a plaque honouring fifty-four years in Scouting for Barb Wicks, who has registered and renewed her clearances for 2024.

Updating training and renewal of clearances through Scouts Canada has been completed by several of the existing Scouters, and two new Scouters are in training. We are looking for more Scouters for both the Scout Troop and the Rover Crew. We welcome Brooke Wrightly, who transferred here from Ontario as a Pack Scouter. As a Group, the youth and Scouters took part in the Apple Day fundraiser and in the Remembrance Day parade and ceremonies. We extend our thanks to the congregation for your continuous support.

Yours in Scouting,
Peter Lake; Group Commissioner

3RD BRIDGEWATER SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES – GENERAL FUND

A financial report from the 3rd Bridgewater Scout Group Committee for 2022 and 2023 were not submitted for inclusion in the Bridgewater United Church 2023 Annual Report. A financial report will be made available at a future date when it has been completed.

BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL

The Bridgewater Inter-Church Council met four times in 2023. The Members for 2023 are Bridgewater United Church, Bridgewater Baptist Church, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, The Salvation Army, St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Impact Church Bridgewater and New Life Christian Church (PAOC). The two reps from Bridgewater United are David Walker and Diane Patten.

The Executive for 2023 was:

- President – John MacDonald (St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church)
- Vice-President – Vacant
- Treasurer – David Walker (Bridgewater United Church)
- Secretary – Sylvia Lonergan (Holy Trinity Anglican Church)

Our objectives are:

- To give visible expression to our fundamental oneness as Christians
- To provide for common action in Christian witness and service in the community
- To deepen our understanding of one another, to praise God together, to provide for fellowship among Christians and to reach out in the name of Jesus.

Items from 2023:

- We continue to look for our role after COVID.
- As a result of our aging demographic for volunteers we have decided to end the Lenten Soup Luncheons.
- We have seen an increase in the demand at the local Food Bank.
- Our Syrian family are still trying to bring their son here.
We are having difficulty dealing with the Government.
- Our Nativity Scene was installed on the corner of Davidson Drive and Aberdeen Road.
- Our Community Advent Service was a great event and \$1,444.50 was given to the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank from our evening offering.

Respectfully submitted,

David Walker; *Bridgewater Inter-Church Council Treasurer*

BRIDGEWATER INTER-CHURCH FOOD BANK

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month at Bridgewater United. Each month, Bridgewater United provides highlighted food donation items to benefit Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank. We have been very blessed by the support of our congregation and the families and staff of Bridgewater Day Care Centre with this Outreach. A thank you is extended to Linda Rowter, Tracy Rafuse and Randy Rafuse, for transporting the Food Bank items to the Food Bank. The year of 2023 saw us with another increase in client numbers, we were up 12.63 percent over the previous year. We had an additional 436 new clients served for the year. There was a loss of \$20,761 in donations and also an increase of \$21,571 in expenses of which is food costs. We are thankful for the support of the Inter-Churches and also our community. If we didn't have those supports, we would not be able to do what we do.

Thank you for all your help and continued support,

Suzanne Stewart; *Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank Coordinator*

B.U.C. BRIGADE MISSION TRIP

The members of the Mission Trip met to discuss the possibility of a future trip to Servant's Heart in the Dominican. After discussion with Donna and Philip Williams, April 2024 is a possible date for some members to participate in a trip. We have four suitcases filled with games, clothing and toys for children that could be taken on the trip or sent with the Williams when they return to the Dominican. We also agreed to send the sum of \$5,000.00 to Servant's Heart for use in any area in need. That leaves a balance of \$3,083.00 for this Mission. We will not be holding any fundraising events prior to the trip in April 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Burgess