

ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Minister's Report

Annual Report- Minister – Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek

Sitting down to reflect on the year that was 2022 is surprisingly emotional. I wonder if this is because the last two times I did this, I was writing during lockdowns and church closures and today I am reflecting on a year where the pandemic was still going but it was finally safe to gather in person more.

In late December 2021 we made the decision to close the building to in person worship and have an online only worship service as the new variant, named Omicron brought the pandemic to unseen levels and our dreams of the vaccine ending the pandemic to a halt.

However, by mid February 2022 the situation had improved enough for us to resume worshipping in the building again with precautions in place, including everyone wearing a mask.

In March we said goodbye to Lynn Carrol our administrator in the office. Lynn was such an asset to the work of the church especially during the pandemic. Lynn was also able to offer on the job training to Virginia Atkinson our new office administrator. It has been wonderful to have Virginia on board getting up to speed on everything and greeting everyone with a warm smile.

Immediately following Easter in April, I headed off on my sabbatical and the Rev. Heather Kincaid filled in, in a half time position. It was wonderful to have Heather cover for me as she is very well known around here.

My sabbatical was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020 but was delayed until 2022. It was such a joy to have time away from the day to day demands of ministry to rest but to also reflect on my ministry as well do some dreaming about what might be possible once I returned and the worst of the pandemic would be behind us.

Also, the lessening of pandemic restrictions meant my family was finally able to celebrate my brothers wedding in June in Barrie and we were able to travel to Nova Scotia in July to have the burial for my grandmother who had died in 2020.

I returned from sabbatical at the end of August and the timing worked well as things were starting up again for the fall and we were finally able to spend less energy on navigating complex and ever-changing pandemic restrictions. However, in November Children's Hospitals were overwhelmed for a few weeks so we brought back in a few restrictions to help keep everyone safe.

In September we welcomed the children back to the worship space for the first time in the pandemic and that was joy. The children's story is a favorite for people of all ages.

Nursing home and hospital visits were still on hold for 2022 with the exception of palliative visits. In person pastoral in visits were limited as well however in the fall I was able to do a few visits in person which was lovely.

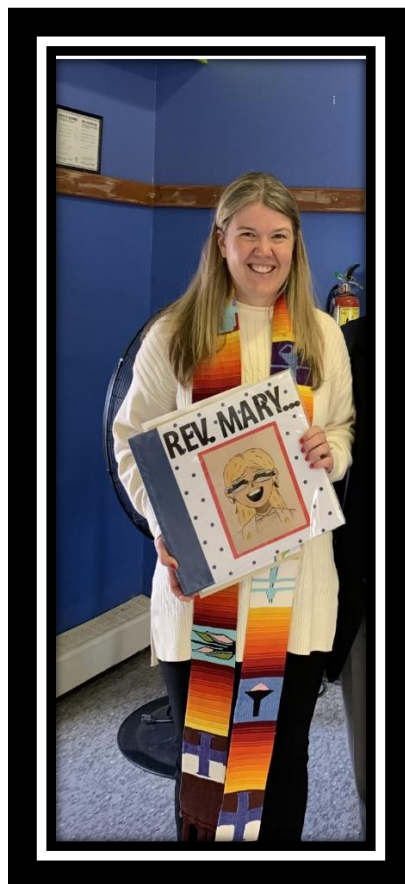
In November the M and P Committee arranged for a special celebration of my eleven years of ministry at AUC and the fifteenth anniversary of my ordination. We welcomed the Rev. Dr. John Young as the guest preacher and then gathered for a sandwich lunch following the service. It was great fun, and my parents were able to join us too.

In 2022 I continued my role on the Board of Directors for the United Church of Canada Foundation, and we held our first in person meeting in November in Toronto. It was nice to finally meet everyone in person since I had joined in 2021.

Looking forward 2023 looks bright. The possibilities for starting new projects and resuming old favourites is so exciting. The addition of some new folks to the congregation is also a reason for joy. I look forward to reconnecting with some folks who I haven't been able to spend time with as well as connecting with new folks. As I reflect on the history of this congregation and all that it has been through over the years its exciting to look forward and wonder what we might get up to together next in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ in our time and place.

Signed,

Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek



Chair of Council

I have been the chair of Council for more years than was originally intended or is allowed by our manual. But the covid-19 pandemic changed almost everything.

I have loved being the Chair and greatly enjoyed working with the Council. They are a dedicated, knowledgeable, competent, fun bunch of people who made the job of being chair very easy. However, I realized that as long as I occupied the chair, that no one else would step forward and it was definitely time for a change. So, it is with two hearts that I say I am no longer the Chair of Council.

Thank-you to all of the members who made my time there so enjoyable. Keep up the good work.

God bless,
Terry Church

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

The Winter meeting of the Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) for 2022 was held online on Feb.26 due to the Covid pandemic. The theme was Many Gifts, One Spirit. This meeting was a time of learning and listening, thus no business was discussed, and no votes took place. Presenters were Rev. Whitman Strong, Minister for Pastoral Relations, Trish Barlow from the Housing Matters Working Group, Diane Strickland, Compassion Fatigue Therapist, and Community and Workplace Traumatologist.

The Fall meeting was held at Bells Corners United Church on Nov. 5, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme was Re-Membering Beloved Community. Presenters were Rev. Whitman Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister for EOORC, Rev. Peter Bartlett, EOORC Minister Supporting Visioning with Communities of Faith, Clusters and Social Justice and Outreach Networks. The meeting ended with a Celebration of Rosemary Lambie's leadership and friendship with EOORC as she retired.

Newsletters were sent our biweekly with only one in each of the months of July, August and December.

To learn more, visit the EOORC web site at www.eoorc.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Rintoul

Auld Kirk Cemetery 2023 Report & Proposed Budget

2022 Auld Kirk Cemetery Report

Chairperson: Mary Fulton
Secretary/Treasurer: Elaine Fulton
Directors: Dawn Blackburn, Clarence Bowes, Toby Ford,
Wendy Ford, Elaine Fulton, Julie Julian, Keith Lowry,
Jill Moxley, Sid Mohr
Caretaker: Peter Cochran **retired October 31 and replaced by
Michael Wiggins
Volunteer Caretaker: Merville McGrath
Accountant: Bob Watson

As Auld Kirk Cemetery Board Directors, we are responsible for the maintenance and upgrades required to keep the cemetery serviceable to the people of community.

2022 was an extremely busy year. There were 71 burials comprising of 16 casket burials and 55 cremations between May and November. A total of 22 plots/niches were sold.

We were pleased to be able to hold our Annual Decoration Day in August and grateful to Rev. Mary for officiating. Friends and family were welcomed to visit during Decoration weekend and Board members were on-site to greet visitors. This resulted in the cemetery being beautifully decorated, good foot traffic and generous donations to the cemetery fund.

During the 2022 season, we were pleased to be able to purchase a replacement lawnmower. Some problematic trees were cut down and fence-line brushing was tended to.

Our cemetery mapping project continues.

Peter Cochran, our Caretaker, made the decision to retire effective October 31 following an outstanding 32+ years of service and dedication to the cemetery. The Board honoured him at a dinner in November. At this time, appreciation was also extended to Peter's wife, Wenda, for her volunteer efforts.

The Board is also extremely grateful to Merville McGrath for his voluntary contribution for the past 22 years to ensure the final resting place of our loved ones is properly cared for.

We are pleased to announce that as of October 17, Michael Wiggins accepted an appointment as Caretaker of the Cemetery replacing Peter Cochran.

I would like to thank all the Board members who work so well together for the betterment of the cemetery. We are very appreciative to Elaine Fulton for her outstanding efforts and support to keep the cemetery in its usual high standard.

On behalf of the Cemetery Committee, I would like to acknowledge the long-standing contribution to the Board by Sid Mohr. We were saddened by his passing in October and our thoughts remain with Sid's family in their loss.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton

ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

| Auld Kirk Cemetery Proposed Budget 2023 | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 | Actual 2022 | Budget 2023 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Care & Maintenance Markers | \$1,200.00 | \$- | \$2,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Care & Maintenance Plots | \$7,500.00 | \$11,695.00 | \$12,000.00 | \$9,170.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Donation Income | \$6,000.00 | \$5,821.70 | \$6,000.00 | \$7,746.75 | \$6,000.00 |
| Special Donations | | \$909.00 | | \$1,850.00 | |
| Total Revenue | \$14,700.00 | \$20,575.70 | \$20,000.00 | \$21,766.75 | \$20,000.00 |

Foundations

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Foundation Income | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |
| Foundation Expense | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |
| Total Foundations | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |

Investment Income

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GIC - Illingworth | \$1,500.00 | \$1,610.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$7,950.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| CIBC Mellon Trust Income | \$13,000.00 | \$19,044.09 | \$17,000.00 | \$19,503.46 | \$17,000.00 |
| Total Investment Income | \$14,500.00 | \$20,654.09 | \$18,500.00 | \$27,453.46 | \$18,500.00 |

Engraving Sales

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Engraving Income | \$- | \$179.00 | \$- | \$151.00 | \$- |
| Engraving Expenses | -\$2,400.00 | -\$2,014.00 | -\$2,400.00 | -\$2,549.00 | -\$2,500.00 |
| Total Engraving Balance | -\$2,400.00 | -\$1,835.00 | -\$2,400.00 | -\$2,398.00 | -\$2,500.00 |

Other Revenues

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Open & Close | \$20,000.00 | \$21,340.00 | \$22,000.00 | \$33,350.00 | \$30,000.00 |
| Overtime Fees & Vault Charges | \$3,000.00 | \$3,400.00 | \$3,500.00 | \$5,625.50 | \$4,500.00 |
| Rental Income | \$1,400.00 | \$1,400.00 | \$1,400.00 | \$1,900.00 | \$1,400.00 |
| Sale of Internment Rights | \$25,000.00 | \$26,125.00 | \$28,000.00 | \$22,650.00 | \$25,000.00 |
| Total Other Revenue | \$49,400.00 | \$52,265.00 | \$54,900.00 | \$63,525.50 | \$60,900.00 |

Other Revenue

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Other Revenue | | \$100.00 | | \$419.85 | |
| Transfer of Plots | \$100.00 | -\$804.00 | \$800.00 | \$225.00 | \$600.00 |
| Vault Storage Income | | | | | |
| Total Other Revenue | \$100.00 | -\$704.00 | -\$800.00 | \$644.85 | \$600.00 |

Monies to C&M Trust

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Care & Maintenance Sent to Trust | -\$8,700.00 | -\$15,714.50 | -\$15,000.00 | -\$9,722.50 | -\$15,000.00 |
| Total Monies to C&M Trust | -\$8,700.00 | -\$15,714.50 | -\$15,000.00 | -\$9,722.50 | -\$15,000.00 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$67,600.00 | \$75,241.29 | \$75,200.00 | \$101,270.06 | \$82,500.00 |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|

ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**Auld Kirk Cemetery
Proposed
Budget 2023**

| | Budget 2021 | Actual 2021 | Budget 2022 | Actual 2022 | Budget 2023 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

EXPENSE

Administration Expense

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bank Charges & Interest | \$400.00 | \$331.17 | \$400.00 | \$388.53 | \$400.00 |
| Decoration Day Expense | \$500.00 | | \$500.00 | \$510.00 | \$500.00 |
| Office Expense | \$600.00 | \$545.88 | \$600.00 | \$1,459.48 | \$750.00 |
| Licenses | \$- | \$- | \$650.00 | \$663.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Misc. Expense | \$500.00 | \$0.50 | \$500.00 | \$417.53 | \$700.00 |
| Total Administration Expense | \$2,000.00 | \$877.55 | \$2,650.00 | \$3,438.54 | \$3,350.00 |

Operating Expense

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Equipment Repair & Mtce | \$1,500.00 | \$699.35 | \$1,000.00 | \$345.82 | \$1,000.00 |
| Equipment Replacement | \$- | \$10,500.00 | | \$3,999.00 | |
| Gas | \$800.00 | \$696.35 | \$800.00 | \$1,073.92 | \$1,200.00 |
| Grass Cutting/Snow Plowing | \$4,500.00 | \$4,518.50 | \$4,500.00 | \$7,200.00 | \$7,200.00 |
| Grave Open/Close | \$4,500.00 | \$3,105.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$4,925.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| Hydro | \$250.00 | \$194.51 | \$250.00 | \$363.67 | \$480.00 |
| Almonte United -Rent Expense | \$1,450.00 | \$1,450.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Almonte United -Insurance Exp | \$2,300.00 | \$2,694.66 | \$3,000.00 | \$3,235.99 | \$3,000.00 |
| Memorial Markers | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |
| Misc. Supplies | \$300.00 | \$297.33 | \$300.00 | \$139.88 | \$300.00 |
| Phone | \$650.00 | \$748.27 | \$800.00 | \$553.58 | \$600.00 |
| Property Tax | \$1,200.00 | \$1,111.04 | \$1,200.00 | \$1,134.03 | \$1,200.00 |
| Soil & Gravel | \$1,200.00 | \$- | \$1,200.00 | \$660.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Property Maintenance Expense | \$4,500.00 | \$8,008.53 | \$8,000.00 | \$11,151.82 | \$5,000.00 |
| Columbarium Expenses | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |
| Map Info Project | \$6,500.00 | \$6,416.55 | \$6,500.00 | \$6,836.20 | \$7,000.00 |
| Boundary Fence Project | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$6,500.00 |
| Monument Project | \$2,000.00 | | \$1,500.00 | | \$- |
| Transfer to Investments | \$3,600.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$2,800.00 | \$29,617.00 | |
| Total Operating Expense | \$35,250.00 | \$42,440.09 | \$37,350.00 | \$72,735.91 | \$42,180.00 |

Payroll Expenses

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Salary - Caretaker | \$22,500.00 | \$21,820.00 | \$22,500.00 | \$23,856.00 | \$22,500.00 |
| Salary - Secretary/Bookkeeper | \$6,000.00 | \$7,023.00 | \$9,000.00 | \$9,850.00 | \$9,000.00 |
| Salary - Bookkeeper | \$1,800.00 | \$1,710.00 | \$2,400.00 | \$2,230.00 | \$2,400.00 |
| EI Expense | \$550.00 | \$471.64 | \$550.00 | \$516.67 | \$550.00 |
| WSIB Expense | \$350.00 | \$184.88 | \$350.00 | \$165.71 | \$350.00 |
| Total Payroll Expense | \$31,200.00 | \$31,209.52 | \$34,800.00 | \$36,618.38 | \$34,800.00 |

TOTAL EXPENSE

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Net Gain/Loss for the period | -\$850.00 | \$714.13 | \$400.00 | -\$11,522.77 | \$2,170.00 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Congressional Life and Care

Catering & Hospitality Sub-Committee Report

There is no report for the Catering/Hospitality sub-committee from Donna Lowry and Louise Owens

Marriages, Baptisms, Burials Report

There were no baptisms performed in 2022 but we did register 5 marriages and 18 burials.

Pastoral Care Task Group Report

Pastoral Task Group members:

Norma Glandon, Margie Graff, Eleanor Rintoul and Terri-Lynn Funnekotter

There are about twenty-five members of our congregation that are visited by the Pastoral Care Team. When we are aware we offer support to folks who are ill, lonely, shut-ins and bereaved. This is done by way of visits, phone calls, e-cards and traditional cards. If you know of someone who needs, or you yourself, need support you can get in touch with Nancy Peters (who sends the cards) or Rev. Mary or myself.

At Christmas and Easter flowers accompanied by AUC cards were delivered.

Only a few birthdays and anniversaries are known by our committee but we welcome additions.

The Pastoral Care Team includes Norma Glandon, Margie Graff, Eleanor Rintoul and Terri-Lynn Funnekotter. Currently, the majority of visiting is done by phone and we are always looking for folks to join the Pastoral Care Team. If you are interested, Rev. Mary would love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Rintoul

Finance & Stewardship

Finance Committee Report

**Finance Committee members:
Nick Frans and Bob Lesser (Chair)**

As I reviewed the annual financial reports for the past few years, this year seems like Groundhog Day all over again, with a few changes. Overall, expenses are more than revenue and we need to continue drawing on our trust funds to balance the books. On the positive, revenues are increasing after a sharp downward decline at the start of the pandemic. Expenses, although increasing over time, are well managed and savings are made where possible.

As Forrest Gump's mother said: "You have to do the best with what God gave you".

For 2022, your total offerings, \$102,888.66, were more than each of the preceding three years. Thank you so very much! There is a transition from envelope income to e-transfer, that went from \$4,360 in 2020 to \$17,895 in 2022 – Wow! Plate and cash offerings also increased from \$179.50 in 2020 to \$1,085.55 in 2022. PAR also saw a small increase since 2020.

Rentals also saw a significant increase since 2020. We are very grateful to the Almonte Nursery for continuing to rent space and provide several year-end extra donations, growing from \$3500.00 in 2020 to \$5565.00 in 2022. A special note of gratitude to Virginia, our office administrator, and Kim for all the extra work that was involved in negotiating and co-ordinating other rentals. Movie companies and other group rental incomes increased from \$7,143.50 in 2020 to \$12,235.00 in 2022.

Thanks to federal government initiatives, the church received a total of \$47,535.00 in 2020 and 2021 as well as an interest-free loan of \$40,000, of which only \$30,000 needs to be repaid by the end of 2023.

Considering a world-wide pandemic and all its implications, we were very fortunate to have come through this as well as we did with a total revenue increase of \$11,483 from 2020 to 2022.

Total expenses decreased from \$208,775.37 in 2020 to \$192,816.35 in 2022. A reduction of \$15,959.02.

All this is great news, however, and there is always a however, to balance the budget, \$220,00 had to be withdrawn from the Manse and General Trust Funds over the years 2020 to 2022. On the plus side, as you will note in the Trustee's Report, the investments did very well.

So, what about 2023? With costs continuing to rise, we are projecting increased costs of \$11,391.65. Being forever hopeful, we projected an increase in revenue of \$40,694.85. This includes increases in rentals, fundraising projects, and a modest increase in givings. To bring the projected year-end balance to a deficit of \$6,624.00, the revenue stream includes a draw on our trust funds of \$100,00.00. A huge sum, \$30,000 of which is needed to pay the interest-free loan we received from the federal government. While the projected year-end balance is in the negative, we are hopeful that rentals and fundraising projects, along with less than projected maintenance and major repair costs will bring us closer to a zero balance.

In closing, it is important to recognize all the work that our bookkeeper/accountant, Bob Watson, does almost daily to manage our books, create cheques, pay bills and all the other crucial tasks that keep us on the straight and narrow. Thanks also to Nick Frans, the other member of the Finance Committee, for his input, monthly bulletin contributions and reports to Council.

Respectively submitted:

Your Financial Team: Bob Watson (accountant/bookkeeper) and your Finance Committee members, Nick Frans and Bob Lesser (Chair)



Continued...

ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Almonte United Church

2019 - 2022 Income/Expense
And 2023 proposed Budget

| REVENUE | 2019 Actual | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Budget | 2022 Actual | 2023 Proposed |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Envelope Income | \$48,481 | \$37,321 | \$26,445 | \$25,000 | \$28,486 | \$28,000 |
| E-Transfer General | \$0 | \$4,360 | \$14,165 | \$16,000 | \$17,895 | \$18,000 |
| PAR Income | \$54,527 | \$53,720 | \$53,910 | \$54,500 | \$55,347 | \$56,000 |
| Plate & Cash Offering | \$3,385 | \$180 | \$100 | \$200 | \$1,086 | \$500 |
| Other offerings | \$1,435 | \$4,468 | \$1,630 | \$200 | \$150 | \$1,100 |
| Fund Raising | \$5,503 | \$1,700 | \$159 | \$0 | \$135 | \$1,000 |
| Rentals | \$31,927 | \$14,275 | \$19,964 | \$22,800 | \$22,536 | \$22,600 |
| Young & Rains Bequest | \$0 | \$523 | \$284 | \$284 | \$1,175 | \$284 |
| Other Revenue | \$411 | \$1,373 | \$10 | \$0 | \$80 | \$100 |
| Government Covid funds | \$0 | \$32,487 | \$15,048 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Manse Trust Funds | \$15,000 | \$10,000 | \$30,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$40,000 |
| General Trust Funds | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$15,000 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 |
| CREB Loan revenue | | | | | | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$160,669 | \$185,406 | \$176,714 | \$188,984 | \$196,889 | \$237,584 |
| EXPENSE | | | | | | |
| Interim Pastor | \$0 | \$9,966 | \$0 | \$10,200 | \$10,204 | \$0 |
| Payroll Minister and Administrator | \$86,927 | \$90,405 | \$93,121 | \$95,725 | \$96,869 | \$98,340 |
| EXPENSE | | | | | | |
| | 2019 Actual | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Budget | 2022 Actual | 2023 Proposed |
| Pastoral Travel and Education | \$1,216 | \$394 | \$266 | \$2,100 | \$972 | \$2,143 |
| Learning & Outreach | \$911 | \$550 | \$266 | \$300 | \$0 | \$100 |
| Worship Expense | \$16,714 | \$16,864 | \$17,137 | \$18,639 | \$18,723 | \$18,985 |
| Congregation Life & Care | \$489 | \$432 | \$1,595 | \$2,300 | \$1,094 | \$3,260 |
| Administration Expense | \$12,518 | \$12,122 | \$12,749 | \$13,240 | \$13,593 | \$12,350 |
| Presbytery Assessment | \$4,999 | \$5,324 | \$8,409 | \$8,500 | \$6,016 | \$6,430 |
| Property Maintenance | \$19,853 | \$14,542 | \$17,848 | \$17,500 | \$15,006 | \$19,500 |
| Utilities - Gas, Hydro, Water | \$11,286 | \$9,836 | \$9,186 | \$9,350 | \$11,714 | \$13,100 |
| Insurance | \$10,422 | \$11,953 | \$14,799 | \$15,400 | \$18,625 | \$20,000 |
| Major Repairs | \$0 | \$39,012 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$10,000 |
| CREB Loan repay end 2023 | | | | | | \$40,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$162,459 | \$208,775 | \$172,642 | \$193,254 | \$192,816 | \$244,208 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$160,669 | \$185,406 | \$176,714 | \$188,984 | \$196,889 | \$237,584 |
| NET INCOME | -\$1,789 | -\$23,369 | \$4,072 | -\$4,270 | \$4,073 | -\$6,624 |

Learning & Outreach

Bert Brydges Memorial Library

The Bert Brydges Memorial Library has been busy adding books to its collection. I have acquired Canadian War Books, a book to help Family of Service people who are serving Canada, books on Indigenous people and some Christmas books. I continue my hunt for some Easter related books to add as well.

Thank you ,
Donna Smith ds
Donnasmith142@hotmail.com

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project Report

For the 2022 Mississippi Mills growing project, we switched from growing soybeans to hard red spring wheat. The crop was no-till planted on May 1st into slightly wet ground. Due to extremely high fertilizer prices, a heavy rate of liquid dairy manure was applied and incorporated (tilled into the soil) in late fall 2021. This reduced crop requirements to 60lbs of starter fertilizer at planting, drastically reducing growing costs. A moderate temperature in May/June accompanied with adequate moisture, provided ideal growing conditions for this years project. We harvested an above average crop of 1.6T/acre in early August.

World events, most notably the war in Ukraine, have driven commodity prices to levels never seen before. A contract price of \$423/T was set in early July, resulting in a very positive revenue from this year's project.

2023's project will be returning to soybeans to ensure a proper crop rotation is maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Lowry and Lindsay Cavanagh



Canadians Food Grains Bank Project

| Expenses | Per acre | Donated Total | Not Donated total | Donated by |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Seed | 92.25 | 738 | | BTLF Carp (Andy Ross) |
| Fertilizer | 40.9 | | 327.27 | |
| Spray | | | | |
| Herbicide | 14.68 | | 117.44 | |
| Fungicide | 21.71 | | 173.68 | |
| Application X2 | 11 | | 176 | |
| Planting | 32 | 256 | | Penlow Farms |
| Fall Manure | 90 | 720 | | Penlow Farms |
| Manure Application | 30 | 240 | | Penlow Farms |
| Crop Insurance | 9.06 | | 72.48 | |
| Harvesting Cost | 60 | 480 | | Hilliard Farms |
| Land Rent | 60 | 480 | | Penlow Farms |
| Trucking to Elevator (per tonne) | 12.8 | | 163.84 | |
| Totals | | 2914 | 1030.71 | |

Yield = 1.6T/acre
 Revenue =12.8T Avg \$/T 423.66 **Gross Revenue = 5422.85**

Revenue - Expenses **\$4,392.14**

Church Member Donations **\$3,140**

Total Submitted to Foodgrains Bank **\$7,532.14**

The Lanark Food Bank Report

The Lanark Food Bank does amazing work in our community with families struggling to make ends meet by putting food on the table. Almonte United Church, through our donations, continues to help in the much needed effort.

October 2022 was our only promoted food drive in 2022. However, approximately 100 lbs of food and \$2,604 was donated during the year. This has gone a long way to helping families in need. In addition, approximately 104 stockings were donated and delivered to the Lanark Food Bank during their annual Christmas Stocking Drive. This provided much needed joy to many adults on Christmas Morning.

Thanks to everyone who contributed this past year. We will continue to assist the Lanark Food Bank in 2023 with your continued support.

With gratitude,
Ron MacMeekin



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

Likulezi Project Report

Likulezi Project

Website: <http://www.africaaware.net/> Facebook Public Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/likulezipublicgroup> Global Giving: <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/add-education-to-resilience-for-hiv-aids-recovery/>



This community care project was launched in 1990 in a hospital in Phalombe, Malawi (East Africa) to address the HIV-AIDS crisis. It is named after the Likulezi River that runs through the catchment area. Village volunteers created entertaining skits, songs, dances, and puppet shows to educate people of all ages on HIV prevention and care. The programs expanded as more needs were identified, including HIV-AIDS home care, support for orphans and their guardian families, vocational training, a small library, grain storage, and a tree nursery.

2022 Support from Almonte United Church

As the pandemic continued, no Likulezi fundraising events were held in Almonte in 2020, 2021, or 2022. However, they will begin again in 2023.

In 2022, we continued to co-administer the Africa Aware Likulezi Project Facebook group with the Project co-founder, Gemma Brugha. There are currently 106 members who can share Likulezi Facebook updates and appeals for sponsorship with their own networks. It also provides prospective donors with evidence of public support.

AUC-Likulezi Financial Statement

Donations received in 2022 = \$980.00

Balance forwarded from 2021 =\$1,255.00

Balance forwarded to 2023 =\$2,235.00

Donation received 2023 =\$ 80.00

Total funds available as of February 28, 2023 =\$2,315.00

AUC did not send the funds listed above to the Likulezi Project in 2022, so the \$2315 will be sent in spring 2023. Note: Some congregation members donated directly to the Project through the Likulezi website or the Global Giving website.

Tax Receipts: To receive a Canadian income tax receipt, donate through Almonte United Church, indicating it is for the Likulezi Project (in the cheque memo line or in a note).

2022 Report from Likulezi Project Administrators

Community members in the Phalombe District of Malawi struggled with the rising cost of living, a hike in school fees and unpredictable weather due to climate change. Although the whole

world is also struggling with these issues, the poor are the ones at the bottom of the pyramid. Here at Likulezi we carry on...because we are resilient. Resilience is the great gift of the poor.

In 2022 we were back into full swing after the restrictions of Covid-19. In fact we didn't lose any of our staff or volunteers from Covid, even though restrictions were sporadic.

Educational activities took priority with workshops, trainings, meetings, and our library back in full use. Our Library has become a hub of the project as it caters for the educational needs from the "Cradle to the Grave".....with children's storytelling, a children's holiday school, literacy sessions, chess club, curriculum books for the secondary school students and teachers, novels for the surrounding community and further afield, and the great asset of the weekly newspapers for all to browse! The Library also extends to holding the "Likulezi Olympics" (children's sports day) and the football finals: all focused on Education. This little Library has now evolved into a true Community Centre.

Programs

1. Aids Education (through drama)
2. Home Based Care
3. Orphan Program
4. Community Development: There is a wide variety of programs.
5. Training Program:

Zikomo! Thank you for your interest and your support!

Submitted by: Laurie Blackstock

Approved by AUC Likulezi Group: Doug Younger-Lewis, Liz Barron, Bob Lesser and Evelyn Ironside

Information provided by: Project Co-founder and Administrator, Gemma Brugha, with input from Project Co-founder and Director, Phillip Mthobwa, and Project Coordinator, Henry Julius.



Above left: (October 2022) Youth in the orphan program make school uniforms.

Above right: (June/July 2022 Home based care evaluation took place as food prices soared.



Above left: (April 2022) 8000 Moringa tree seedlings were distributed to villages and schools.

Above right: (April 2022) Anyone who stored food in the Likulezi Silos could access it during the flood when food was scarce.



Above left: (April 2022) April harvest was poor due to a cyclone.

Above right: (September 2022) Orphaned youth starting secondary school in September.

Spiritual Awareness & Growth Explorations (S.A.G.E)

S.A.G.E has not been active during the pandemic.

Sunday School and Youth Group Report

Despite another unpredictable year, we could always count on our children and youth to lead the way, showing us all God's love in action. Whether we were in another lockdown due to COVID-19 or leading an in-person service; whether we met in the Social Hall or danced like penguins on the church lawn, the AUC kids and youth had a wonderful year of learning, fellowship, outreach, and fun. Let's look back at a year to remember!

In January, we hopped back online, (like the seasoned pros we were!), and shone our lights brightly. Our weekly online lessons were hosted by Margie but led in so many ways by the 10-15 children and youth who tuned in regularly. Bible stories, songs, crafts, and faith in action projects kicked off our year, despite being temporarily unable to meet in person.

Thumbs Up Greetings... Reaching Out to Our Church Family

“Thumbs Up!” Greetings started to pop up everywhere during February. These small, cheery cards were created and delivered by our kids to church and family members to help build connection and let everyone know they were in our thoughts. Additional cards were available for pickup in the sanctuary upon our return to in-person worship and Sunday School.



Our Lenten Focus

As our world changed around us, we saw the need to focus on peace throughout the season of Lent. We looked at peace within us, around us, and how we could be peacemakers. Our Peace Pots fund raiser allowed us to help in a small way to ease the Ukrainian refugees, through the United Church’s relief fund. Hand painted clay pots in the Ukrainian colours were lovingly created and then sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, were planted in them. Once the sunflowers had sprouted and grown, they were sold to our church family who so generously supported the effort, allowing us to send \$450.00 to the fund.



Our Sunday School Celebration Service gave us a chance to share our learning and reflections about peace with our church family. Special thanks was given to Jessica, our Sunday School helper during the spring session. A heartfelt thank you was given to our teachers Jessica Badger and Margie Graff who led us throughout the year with much patience, flexibility and love! We would also like to thank Amanda Pulker Mok and Bonnie Schnittker for their help with both of our children and youth led services.



After a well-earned Summer Break, we returned to Sunday School in September and rededicated ourselves to reconciliation with our Indigenous friends. Through both our Orange Shirt Day observations and our donations to SchoolBOX, raising money for Indigenous libraries in Treaty 3 communities, we continued along the path to reconciliation.



As the season of Advent arrived, the Youth Group kicked things off with a floral arranging workshop with Mary MacMeekin. Over 50 arrangements were given to any in the congregation in need of a little extra Christmas cheer.



Our annual Advent service was a true highlight as we told the Christmas story from the angels' perspective, wearing the costumes that were donated to us by Donna Kay. Finally, we wrapped up 2022 with a cookie decorating Sunday, which our church family enjoyed following the Advent IV service.





We would like to extend our special thanks to Rev. Mary and the Worship Committee for their support and encouragement throughout the year. As well, we would like to thank our church family for their welcoming smiles, kind words, and endless support of our many activities.

We think you are the best!

Respectfully Submitted,
Margie Graff and the AUC Kids



Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

AUC M & P Committee Members:

Mary Smiley (Chair)

Dorothy Day John Day

Ron MacMeekin Bryn Matthews

Bernadette van Duyvendyk

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

M&P Committee is elected by the congregation to create and sustain a safe environment for all in our community of faith. As such we are responsible for all staffing actions. 2022 proved to be a year of many staffing actions! During 2022, we met seven times to fulfill the needs that arose. We began the year with the selection of our new Office Administrator. Lynn Carroll had indicated to us that she would be leaving at the end of her contract with us. M&P established a selection criterion following an in-depth review of the position. We interviewed a number of qualified candidates and chose Virginia Atkinson. Lynn left at the end of March 2022, with a very smooth transition to Virginia. We were very sad to see Lynn leave, however, very happy to welcome Virginia. All the Annual Reviews and employment agreements were completed in March for all staff. No serious concerns were raised. We are indeed fortunate to have committed and dedicated staff who care deeply about us and our church property. We are indebted to them for their support and good humour, especially during these changing times. As we all know, The Rev. Mary was to have been on her sabbatical in the Spring of 2020. With the arrival of COVID, it was decided to postpone the sabbatical. At the time no one thought that it would be postponed until 2022! The Rev. Mary was able to start her sabbatical after Easter, 2022. We welcomed the Rev. Mary back in mid August. During her time away, we were blessed to have the Rev. Heather Kincaid appointed on a half time basis until her return. We appreciate the Rev. Heather's commitment to us. In the Fall we began the process of reviewing all of the job descriptions, including all duties and responsibilities for each position. We did this in consultation with the other committees of Council and the staff concerned. A number of changes have been made to the job descriptions to better reflect each position, including the employment agreements being based on the calendar year. In January 2020, M&P started to plan a staff appreciation event for after Church in mid March 2020. Great idea - bad timing. Fast forward to September 2022. In the United Church of Canada, October is traditionally recognized as Minister Appreciation Month. M&P planned an event in mid October to recognize and thank our staff for each of their ministries with us. The ministry of maintenance by Kim, the ministry of music by Neil, the ministry of financial management by Bob, the ministry of administration by Virginia and the ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care by the Reverends Mary and Heather. We had a great turnout and tremendous support by the Sunday School and Youth Group who prepared certificates of gratitude for each member of our staff. We all enjoyed a tea or coffee (thanks to Dini and Nick) and a bagged sandwich. In November 2021, the Rev. Mary (and Almonte United Church) celebrated 10 years of her answering the call to ministry by Almonte United Church. Given the ongoing concerns at the time, we were not able to come together to celebrate. In the Spring of 2022, the Rev. Mary celebrated 15 years since her ordination in 2007. These are both milestones that we wanted to recognize. With the support of Council, we invited the Rev. Dr. John Young to join us in honouring the Rev. Mary and Almonte United Church. Wasn't that a celebration?

Again, much gratitude to our Sunday School and Youth Group for preparing their special memory book. Many thanks to the members of Council and M&P for making and bagging our lunch and to Nick and Dini for the tea, coffee, set up and clean up. We are looking forward to 2023.

Respectfully submitted M&P

Dorothy Day, John Day, Ron MacMeekin, Bryn Matthews, Bernadette van Duyvendyk, Mary Smiley (Chair)

Property & Maintenance Committee Report

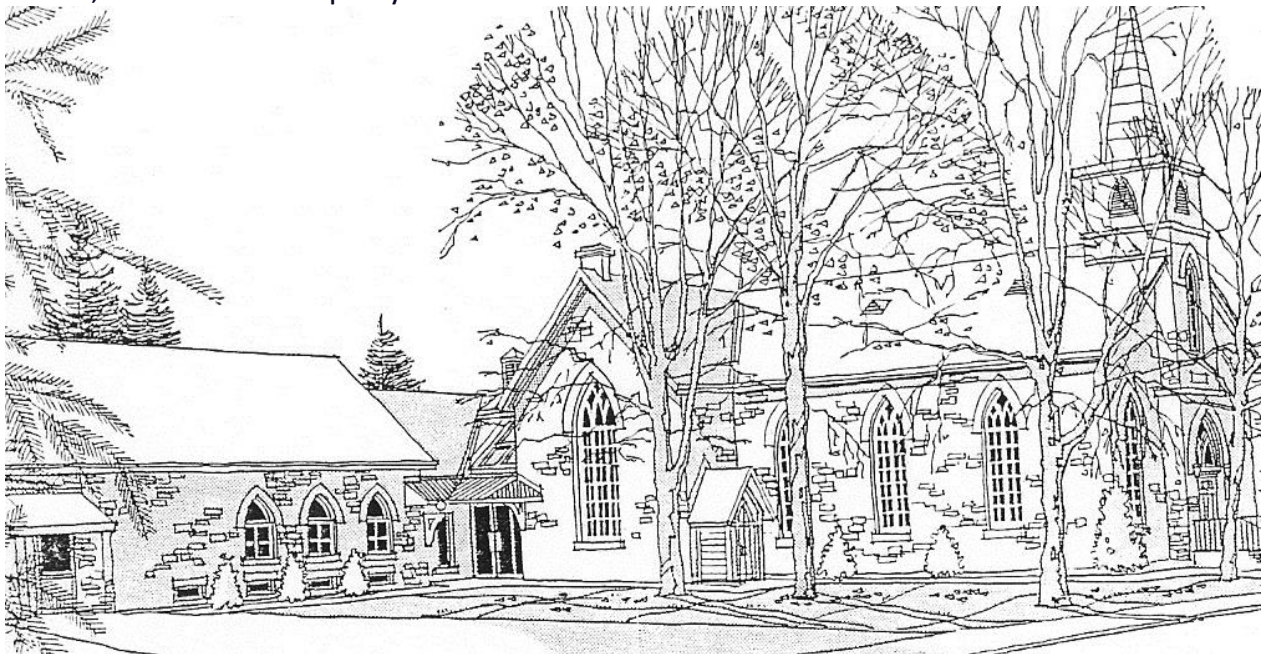
Lawn and garden maintenance, snow removal, and building upkeep and repair all fall under the privilege of being part of the Property Committee. 2023 was another year of mostly "keeping things going," — where the focus was on maintaining things in safe and sound repair for our congregation and tenants. We have a few significant projects to deal with in 2023 — the two most pressingly being side entryway weather and safety concerns, and a dead tree on the northwestern corner of the property that hovers over the neighbour's home. Both of these are expensive issues that have to be dealt with soon. Plans are in place to have them taken care of before the spring.

We would be remiss not to thank Kim Julian for taking such great care of our building, giving it that extra love and attention that only a caring person can. Thanks, Kim.

And thanks to all the people (present and past) who donate their time and money to ensure we have a safe and beautiful place to meet, pray, and love. Here's to all of you!

Respectfully,

Steve Reside, Chair of the Property Committee



Board of Trustees Report

AUC Board of Trustee Members:

**Richard Alexander (Chair) Marina Johnston
Terry Church Beverly Taylor
Willie Haliburton**

Last year's annual report indicated that we were very pleased with the performance of our Trust investments. We also stated that one year's returns cannot be guaranteed in the future. While market returns in 2021 were excellent, we are all aware the markets in 2022 were down considerably and many investments decreased in value. Fortunately, given the significant market drop, had we not withdrawn \$73K, we still would have about broken even on the investments.

Given the forgoing, it appears that our investments are being well managed.

Activity for 2022 is as follows:

Contributions: \$2350. – income from the Young & Raines Bequest

Withdrawals: \$70,000. - \$60K from General Trust & \$10K from Manse Trust

Drawings from Trust Funds were approved by Council.

The year-end Almonte United Church and Auld Kirk Cemetery Trust balances for the past 3 years are as follows.

Dec 31/20 Dec 31/21 Dec 31/22

Manse Trust \$241,487. \$281,147. \$276,521.

General Trust \$217,324. \$266,681. \$209,787.

AKC Trust \$ 97,392. \$129,777. \$153,385.

Your Trustees wish to thank Bob Watson, our church bookkeeper who provides assistance by preparing a monthly report outlining the activity in our Trust Funds and AUC Office Manager Virginia Atkinson, for her kind assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Alexander,
Chair of Trustees.

Worship Committee Report

Worship Committee Members

Eleanor Rintoul - Chair, Rev. Mary Royal-Ducezk, Neil Milnes, Margie Graff, Terri-Lynn Funnekotter, Robin Soule, Ian Douglas (January - October)

2022 was a year that, in many ways, looked very different in January than in December. From being once again in a temporary lockdown due to a new variant of COVID-19 to the first in-person Christmas Eve services, the church met the challenges of the year with creativity, determination, and a strong commitment to be the people of God... no matter what!

Remembering that our creativity and resilience can create many possibilities, the Worship Committee met monthly to help plan and support this commitment through services, both online and in-person. January found us in the all too familiar position of keeping our community safe by worshipping online but, unlike previous years, a well honed routine was in place thanks to the continued efforts of our videographers, Bob and Pat Lesser, Neil and our choir, and of course, Rev. Mary. "Sparks of Joy" returned where members of the congregation shared via email their moments of happiness with us all. Online Bible study on the theme of disability in the Bible began. As well, the invitation to "Come for Tea" with a neighbour, virtually or by phone, was extended to help keep everyone connected. All of these efforts helped keep our faith journey moving forward.

On February 27th, we saw the building re-open for in-person worship, with COVID protocols in place, keeping everyone safe. A hybrid service model began again, so that those unable to attend could still enjoy the recorded services.

Lent was a time of renewal in many ways as the congregation continued to shift to more in-person worship experiences. Shrove Tuesday was observed with the Sunday School recording their version of Rev. Dr. Richard Bott's Shrove Tuesday prayer, and Eleanor Rintoul's famous pancake recipe was lovingly shared. Lent saw the return of the Senior Choir practices, followed shortly by their music leadership during the worship services themselves. Palm Sunday was eventful for the Sunday School as they joined the rest of the church family from the balcony for the start of the service. The Good Friday and early Easter services also returned.

Following the Easter services, Rev. Mary was finally able to take her much delayed sabbatical. Rev. Heather Kincaid returned to lead the congregation for the next three months. Her care for the congregation and creative worship experiences helped us all in our understanding of the scriptures as well as our building of community. Her Platinum Jubilee service, in honour of

Queen Elizabeth's 70th year as sovereign, was a particular joy, with the congregation dressing up in their finest and enjoying cake, made by Rev. Heather, for us all.

Rev. John Lockhart was our much-appreciated guest speaker at the church's anniversary service, followed the next week by the Sunday School Celebration service, focusing on peace and how we

can all work towards being peace makers. Prayers from the congregation were written on paper doves that were then collected by the Youth Group and Sunday School to be combined into an art installation suspended in the sanctuary. A special surprise prepared by Mary Smiley and a few of our Sunday School friends was a homemade strawberry sorbet treat following one of our June services, giving everyone a chance to chat and catch up on the lawn.



Rev. Mary returned to leading worship in August. September saw Coffee Hour come back, thanks to the efforts of Nick and Dini Frans, our tireless hosts. The service itself was returning to the traditional timing with many elements being included once again.

Truth and Reconciliation Sunday was a moving service that was followed by a walk through a garden of orange hearts, prepared by the Sunday School. Chalk art at the base of the front exterior stairs, by Dot Lockhart, helped everyone remember the journey of reconciliation that we are all on.

October and November were months of appreciation in so many ways. A celebration of our ministry staff took place on October 16th thanking them for their many efforts, both seen and unseen. Another moving Remembrance service took place with Jack Lockhart playing pipes and Brian Morrison reading the Roll of Honour.

Rev. Mary was honoured on November 13th as we helped her celebrate her 15th year of ordination and her 10th year with us here at Almonte United. Dr. John Young, a former professor and current colleague of Rev. Mary, was the guest speaker and all were invited to a soup and sandwich luncheon following the service. The Sunday School presented Rev. Mary with a photo scrapbook and the congregation also presented her with a gift.



The Advent season also had highlights which included the music service, children’s service and the return of the Christmas Eve services. Approximately 110 people gathered at the early service which was full of special music offered by the Senior Choir, as well as Alison and Andrew Paul. A special guest pianist, Olye, from the Ukraine, played a moving rendition of “Carol of the Bells” that was also much appreciated.



With so much going on, there are many people to thank for their contributions to our services. Thanks goes out again to Rev. Heather Kincaid for her generosity and caring whenever we find ourselves in need of worship leadership. Thank you as well, goes to Eleanor Rintoul for her weekly readings of the Minutes for Mission, and a reminder of the important and diverse work our church supports. To Ron and Mary MacMeekin we say thank you for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully. Bonnie Schnittker has done the much appreciated job of preparing our communion packs for us. Thanks to Julie Julian for coordinating our Greeters throughout the year. Many have helped out with our sound system, ushering, and scripture readings; we have all benefitted from their expertise and generous offering of their time. Bob and Pat Lesser continue to generously give of their time and talent to record and post our church services on a weekly basis. Their work allows us to reach out to all in our community and beyond. We also extend our thanks to the late and much loved Betty Preston who organized and recruited our weekly scripture readers. Her quiet but much needed contributions to our church family will be lovingly remembered.

Earlier this year, our hard working secretary, Lynn Carroll, decided to take a well deserved retirement. Her skilled efforts to prepare our weekly bulletins and to keep our church up and running, even during a pandemic, will always be appreciated. With Lynn's moving on, we welcomed Virginia Atkinson to the church secretary position and it wasn't long before we couldn't imagine ourselves without her. Thanks goes to Virginia as well for jumping in so capably in her many roles.

The role of music within our worship services is skillfully fulfilled by our talented Senior Choir and Music Director, Neil Milnes. The weekly anthems and Neil's instrumental offerings are able.

to express worship in a way that words are sometimes unable to. Thank you to Neil and all the singers for their dedication to our music ministry.

Finally, Rev. Mary continues to be our wonderful worship leader, challenging us weekly to take the words and intent of the Bible and live them out through our daily lives. Her care for us all is always present, from quiet chats to leading discussion groups. We have benefitted from her creative and thought provoking messages that have helped us become a stronger faith community. Thank you, Rev. Mary, for helping us on our journey as we travel together in God's love.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margie Graff, for the Worship Committee:

Eleanor Rintoul - Chair, Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek, Neil Milnes, Terri-Lynn Funnekotter, Robin Soule, Ian Douglas (January - October)



Senior Choir Report

The choir was finally been able to resume Wednesday night rehearsal and return to a somewhat normal routine since being locked up in our homes. Everyone is happy to be back, but sadly we lost a dedicated member. Betty Preston's passing in the new year was a shock to us all. Betty was very frustrated with covid restrictions and just wanted to get back to normal. And sadly as things have slowly started to get back to normal, she passed away. Betty is missed at choir for sure.

The choir is doing a great job; however, we need singers. I know the church is filled with good singers. I can hear you and I know your out there. So if there is a way that we could get more to join. I also know that people have busy schedules and may not be able to commit every Wednesday. Maybe some could come every second week. I am open to ideas and ways that we could work out a way too grow the choir. Although the choir is doing a great job, we really are hanging on a thin thread. So please consider joining the choir. We need singers.

Respectfully submitted.

Neil Milnes

