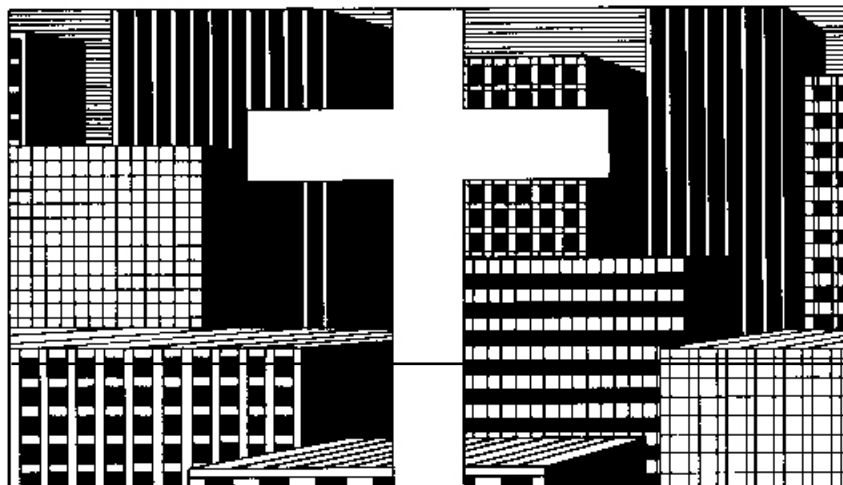


*Urban Christian Outreach*  
(Ottawa)



*2012 Year in Review*  
(Issued March 2013)

**Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Incorporated**  
is a registered charitable organization founded in 1993.  
Charitable Registration # 13776 1938 RR0001

## **CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES**

The main purposes of Urban Christian Outreach are: to establish contact with those in the city of Ottawa who are struggling to survive spiritually, physically, or psychologically; and to mitigate the effects of urban isolation on the life of the individual.

We do this by pointing people towards a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ; and offering ongoing pastoral and practical care, including Christian education, street literacy and life-skills tutoring.

Urban Christian Outreach staff engages in mobile outreach on the streets, and in the coffee shops, parks and other communal places of the city. We especially (but not exclusively) develop ongoing relationships with those whose fragilities make it difficult for them to function in group settings. We seek to be present to their need, even when there are no apparent solutions, thereby offering hope, respect and dignity to the individual.

Urban Christian Outreach works in co-operation with other agencies by referring clients to social, medical, shelter, educational, employment and Christian organizations that will further expand the individual's personal network within the community, and will serve his/her various needs.

The heart of the work is relational. However, from time to time Urban Christian Outreach may develop structured programs and projects that are in keeping with the central focus of enhancing the well-being of those who are experiencing urban isolation and deprivation. This will be done according to the needs of the clients and the qualifications of current staff.

The geographical area of outreach and projects is within a ten kilometre radius of Parliament Hill (Ontario only). Follow-up may take us into other areas of the city, for home, hospital and jail visits.

We engage in dialogue and speaking engagements with individuals and groups, to promote a wider understanding of existing needs, and to search out possible solutions.

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## 2012 Annual Report from the President of UCO

### Hope for the Poor

Life is good in our fair city of Ottawa! Beauty is all around us. Education, high incomes and job protection make our lives comfortable. Ottawa's social assistance networks even take pride in seeking "A final home for the homeless" (*Ottawa Citizen*, Feb. 25, 2013), and yet, all too often, we pass by the downtown beggar without even making eye contact. In the midst of our busy schedules, it is so easy to close our eyes to the realities of poverty.

*In Luke 4:18 (from The Message), Jesus says, "God's spirit is on me. He's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce 'This is God's year to act!'"*

We learn that Jesus did not come to make bad people good, but to bring all mankind a full, rich life. God's love is relentless, He is on a mission, and He invites us to join Him.

Last summer I shadowed Jill Wilson, our Executive Director, on the sidewalks, so that I could experience a glimpse of UCO's ministry. We started early, with prayer at a coffee shop, and then headed down Rideau Street. As we neared the shopping centre, we came across a young woman crouched on the cement, rocking back and forth, while smoking a cigarette at a vigorous rate. She was evidently coming down off crack and looked desperate, but with emphatic shakes of her head she refused Jill's offer of help. Inside the mall, we stopped to talk with a young quadriplegic man (we'll call John). John talked happily telling us his birthday was soon, but as we listened and laughed together, I noticed he was unable to open his clenched hands. Jill invited him out for lunch on his birthday and suggested that we pray about his other concerns, to which he happily agreed. Together we prayed, and soon, his face shimmered in light as he joined us in talking to our Heavenly Father. As we continued, John told us he felt a tingling sensation in his back and within minutes his fingers began to spread and stretch out. God's Spirit was giving hope and he was ecstatic! While most shoppers were passing by us obliviously, we noticed two women pause nearby. They stood silently, reflecting and praying with us for this man's healing. What an authentic, powerful moment! Time seemed to stand still as we entered into the loving presence of God. Urban Christian Outreach is only one small charitable organization that works to alleviate the many needs of the isolated and the poor – yet we are unique. From our newsletters, most of you, dear friends, are aware of the varied ways we serve. We seek to create relationships, one by one offering friendship, in gentle, humble ways. As we encourage our clients to receive God's deep, deep love, they gain much needed hope. That is the glory of our work!

We need help and you can be part of that. Times are tough, everywhere, and UCO is facing serious budget shortfalls. We have cut our budget and risk having to decrease Jill's hours of service. Would you consider increasing your giving by 15%? Please help spread the word to family members and friends about UCO's ministry to the poor. Finally, we are in need of additional Board members. Please pray about whether God is calling you.

**This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UCO's sidewalk ministry.** We are so very thankful for your faithful spirit of generosity over the years! We shall be remembering what God has done at **a celebration service on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at Dominion Chalmers United Church.** You are invited to come and to bring guests. Everyone is welcome! There is a "green" invitation enclosed in this package where you will find specific information. Let us trumpet our blessings, and enjoy the fellowship at the reception following!

**In His Service,  
Donna Appleton  
President, UCO**

**2012 Annual Report from the Executive Director** (Based on a 28-hour salaried week)

*"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

*Micah 6:6-8 ESV*

**Dear Faithful in Christ,**

Ministry is messy work! In our brokenness as human beings, we fall so very short of our Heavenly Father's Glory. Whether it is on the sidewalks or in the boardrooms, the sanctuaries or our living rooms, what our Father would require of us is that we would *'do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.'* As we strive to bring about justice for the poor, we are reminded of our own shortcomings and our own need for Jesus, moment by moment. By the grace of God, the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, the leading of The Holy Spirit, by the humble obedience of Katrine Barton-Coward and Dr. Allen Churchill, and through your beautiful and continued faithfulness of support over the years, Urban Christian Outreach is celebrating 20 years of ministering to the poor on the sidewalks and coffee shops of downtown Ottawa. Praise be to God alone for this joyful celebration!

As I look back over this past year, I must say that it has been a challenging one. As we struggle to make financial commitments and secure Board members, we are called to trust God to meet our daily needs. This can create tension. With many churches falling short of making their own budgets, as well as individuals feeling the economic pinch, we pause to reflect on our Lord's promises, and ask, 'Lord, you are in control; what would you have us learn from this situation?' Repenting of worry, we are drawn to the Cross, to remember Jesus and to claim his promises

and to ask, not only for our dear friends downtown who often struggle with unimaginable, heart-wrenching problems, but also for the ministry of Urban Christian Outreach, that by His grace we may serve him for another day, or another 20 years, according to His perfect will for us.

*"And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."*

*Matthew 21:22 ESV*

**Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care**

Since 1993, Urban Christian Outreach has strived to be a Christian presence on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa and in the coffee shops, drop-in centres, parks and shelters where our clients frequent. Our work also takes us into prisons, courthouses and hospitals and occasionally under the bridges where some find refuge.

The ministry work of UCO is Holy Spirit-led. We strive to remain in prayer as we walk, allowing God to go before us, and to lead us to those who are most in need of his Grace. We try to offer compassion, and a listening ear to those who are isolated and lonely, pointing them to Jesus Christ, the only One who can truly set them free. We share the hope that we have in Christ Jesus, as we come alongside the broken and the hurting.

We seek to help our clients in practical ways, by helping them to connect with other helping agencies in the community, and by arranging for housing, clothing, furniture and personal needs, as appropriate. We assist with employment applications and refer clients to various work centres. In addition, we help those in need of legal assistance by referring them to lawyers, by accompanying them to court dates, and by visiting those in prison. We refer and accompany clients to medical and dental appointments, and offer other practical assistance, as appropriate.

We meet regularly for Bible study with those who seek to draw nearer to God, and we pray with those who are open to prayer. Many of our clients are unable to function in group settings and so we meet with them one on one, where they are. Some of our clients suffer from mental or developmental illnesses. Many struggle to survive. Some have experienced rejection from the church, and so, when appropriate, we seek to bring about reconciliation. Often, we just sit together over a cup of tea.

Life can be so difficult for the poor. Jennifer, (not her real name) a woman whom UCO helps, is struggling with bi-polar disorder. Her life is consumed by counselling appointments and doctor's visits as they seek to help her to find the right medication. She strives to balance her life and to find hope to face another day. She would love to return to work, but depression causes her to show a lack of interest during employment interviews, and so far no one has been willing to hire her. Day by day she is pre-occupied with gathering enough food to survive. Twice a day, she can be seen standing in line at the soup kitchens, grateful to receive food that she doesn't have the energy to forage and prepare for herself. She is vulnerable to the drug scene, and struggles to stay clean and sober. Sometimes, Jennifer succumbs to her addiction to drugs, in order to cope with her pain. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will move in power in Jennifer's heart, that he will heal her of her addictions and that she will put her hope in Jesus and find the Peace that only Christ can give.

***Psalm 52:8 says, "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercies of God forever and ever."***

Paul (not his real name) was recently released from prison, where he gave his life to Christ. Referred by another agency, Paul asked for our help in securing a network of support around him. He is determined to begin a new life, and not to reoffend. We meet regularly with Paul for Bible Study and prayer, and to offer practical support. Please pray for Paul, that God will raise up an army of Spirit-filled Christians to help him on his new journey.

Sarah (not her real name) has a disability and struggles with feelings of rejection. She longs to be accepted by her family and society. As the family 'scapegoat', Sarah is often the target of her family's anger and frustration. She wants everyone to 'get off her back' so that she can lead a peaceful life. We meet with Sarah to pray for God's 'peace that passes all understanding.' Please pray for Sarah that she would lean into Jesus, and find refuge in Him, and that she would come to know how much she is loved.

Andrew (not his real name) has just learned that his cancer is back and that his prognosis is 'not good.' As he faces another round of chemotherapy and radiation, please pray that God would draw very near to Andrew, supplying all of his needs, and that Andrew would find new hope in Christ Jesus.

Isn't this what we all need? Hope? Life can be so difficult for those of us who have loving support, but for those who are marginalized, rejected and isolated, day to day living can be traumatic. There are so many lonely, hurting people in downtown Ottawa right now who need our help.

UCO's mission is to be the light of Christ to those who are suffering from poverty, loneliness, and the effects of urban isolation.



*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*

Romans 10:1 ESV

### **Bible Study**

*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.* Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

I am convinced that I am the student when I am given the privilege of meeting with our clients for Bible study. As we open our Bibles in coffee shops and borrowed rooms in downtown churches and businesses, God's wisdom is given to the poor as he lifts the veil from their eyes! What a glorious sight to behold! How I wish that you all could be witness to this. Please pray that I will be blessed with a teachable spirit, as the poor have much to teach us!

### **UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom**

We have been blessed with another successful year at **The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre (ROMHC)** where we continue to offer an Adult Education program two afternoons per week. Students receive literacy training as well as instruction in Math, History, Language Arts, Geography, College and Careers, and Science. The Royal Ottawa provides the classroom space, Occupational Therapist Anne Raudoy, Occupational Therapy Technician Paula Osborne, and volunteer instructors. UCO provides two instructors: Nadia Behmann, a retired professional teacher, and me. We are very grateful to all those who donate their time to make our classroom a success.

UCO doesn't receive any funding from the ROMHC for this program. In keeping with our mission to provide the poor with literacy training, we volunteer our time. Students may join our classroom anytime from September to June. Students work independently on individualized programs of study, which UCO is responsible for designing.



Some of our students are working toward their High School equivalency or their General Education Development Diploma, (GED), while others are working on Independent Learning Centre credits toward their Ontario High School Diploma. Others are working on basic literacy and math skills. In total, 18 students were enrolled in the classroom over the course of the year, with an average attendance of 9 students.

### **Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking**

In 2012, we were blessed with 15 speaking engagements, which included opportunities to preach the Gospel message. We would be grateful for an opportunity to speak to your church or group on behalf of UCO and to talk about our ministry work on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. We are very grateful to the churches and organizations that have supported us in 2012: **Anglican Church of the Messiah, Blackburn Hamlet Community Church,**

**Dominion Chalmers United Church, Gloucester Presbyterian Church, Highland Park Wesleyan Church, Kitchissippi United Church, Parkdale United Church, Rothwell United Church Women, St. Andrew's United Church, Rockland, St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican Church, St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church, Sunnyside Wesleyan Church, and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Kanata.**

We are most grateful to **Dominion Chalmers United Church**, who provided extra financial support, as well as rooms in which to meet with our clients for Bible study and pastoral care, a venue for our Board meetings and a parking space. We are also very grateful for their provision of paper, supplies and photocopying services which helped us to keep our printing costs low. We thank God for **The Rev. James Murray, Ms. Judy McNevin, Mr. Terence McDonald, and Mr. Bob Richard**, of DC Church, for their kindness and support of our ministry work.

We give thanks to God for **Mr. Rob Kupe and The Bible House** for the lovely room where we meet for Bible study, as well as to **the staff of Salem Storehouse** for their kind hospitality. We are most grateful to **Captain Ginny, Corps Officer/Pastor** of the **Salvation Army, Gladstone Community Church** for her faithful hospitality in providing us with a venue for UCO's Praise & Worship Choir, as well as for UCO's Board meetings.

In keeping with our mission to be good stewards of your donated dollars, UCO doesn't rent any office space; UCO Board and staff members do their work out of their homes, and from borrowed rooms in downtown churches and businesses. We also praise God for gifted, local freelance artist, **Monique Choquette**, who prayerfully takes a verse of Scripture and draws the wonderful artwork that you see in our quarterly updates and reports. We give thanks to God for our Webmaster, **Mr. John Wice**, for his faithfulness over the years.

### UCO Volunteers

Urban Christian Outreach is enriched by dedicated and faithful volunteers, who give their time to be a blessing to the poor. We thank God for the following volunteers: **Ms. Nadia Behmann**, UCO Instructor in the ROMHC classroom, for her leadership and

wisdom both in the classroom and as a member of our anniversary committee; for **Ms. Cara Stewart**, who worked one on one helping clients to improve their literacy skills; for **Ms. Elanor Nigh**, UCO's Praise & Worship Choir leader, for her dedication and joyful spirit; for **Sandy Cybulskie**, for her kind compassion to the poor; and for **Nadia Behmann, Judy McMillan, Jacqueline Choquette, Katrine Barton-Coward, and Donna Appleton**, dedicated members of UCO's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee. We are also grateful for the many **hidden volunteers** who work quietly and faithfully behind the scenes to bless the ministry work of UCO: those who have shadowed me on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, members of various missions' committees, church offices and church members. We thank God for all of you.

### UCO Board Members

The work of UCO is overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors chosen by God from a variety of denominations here in Ottawa. Our Board members are made up of both Lay and Ordained Christian leaders. I am very grateful for **The Rev. Karen Bergenstein** (Past President), and for **Mr. David Hayman** (Past Secretary), for their dedication and service to the ministry work of UCO in 2012. I give thanks to God for our current Board members, **Ms. Donna Appleton** (President), **Ms. Mary-Anne Zwicker** (Treasurer), **The Rev. Neil Stephens** and **Mr. Allen Macartney**, Members at Large. Thank you for your faithfulness, wisdom, discernment, dedication and encouragement!

### UCO Newsletter via Email

If you would like to receive your quarterly updates by email, please provide us with your email address, by either writing it on the back of the donor card, or via email at [jill@uco-ottawa.ca](mailto:jill@uco-ottawa.ca).

### Spiritual Advisor to UCO and Spiritual Director to the Executive Director

We are so most grateful to **The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey**, who has continued in his role as Spiritual Advisor to UCO and as Spiritual Director to me, and as an ex-officio member of UCO's Board of Directors.

The continuity of Dr. Bailey's ministry to UCO has provided stability and oversight to UCO, during times of transition and challenges.

We are grateful to Dr. Bailey for leading our Board of Directors in a retreat last fall, where among other things, we sought to reflect on God's love for the poor, and for us, as well, and how we might model that love in our relationships with one another.

On a personal note, I thank God for Dr. Bailey, and for the amazing gifts of wisdom and discernment that he so faithfully uses to encourage me in my work with the poor. How wonderfully refreshing it is for me, to know that when I am blessed with the opportunity to meet with Dr. Bailey, to pray and to seek God's will together, the Lord's true and perfect will is confirmed. The Lord, in His mercy, gives us ears to hear and blesses us with his presence.

***"Be still and know that I am God."*** Psalm 46:10

Dear brothers and sisters-in-Christ, it is my prayer that you would all have your own Spiritual Director to encourage you on your journey. I am so blessed, and truly thank God for Dr. Bailey's faithfulness in ministry.

### **UCO Prayer Group**

We are so grateful for **Ms. Jean Gallant** and **Ms. Annie Burt**, who continue to faithfully volunteer their time to meet to pray for all of UCO's needs. This is a wonderful ministry of encouragement and God continues to bless us with his presence as we pray. We welcome new members to join our prayer group.

***Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14, ESV)***

**With Gratitude, In Christ,**

***Jill Wilson,***  
***Executive Director, UCO***

## **Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)** **Spiritual Advisor's Annual Report** **2012**

Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is a fascinating person in the life of Jesus. Though there are only a few explicit references to her in the Gospels, her role is intriguing. In Luke 10 and in the two references to her in John 11 and John 12 a consistent detail about how she approaches Jesus is mentioned. Mary is the person, in all of the gospels who spends the most time at Jesus' feet.

In Luke 10, while Martha is doing the important work of practicing hospitality and feeding Jesus and his disciples, Mary is doing the important work of "sitting at Jesus' feet"; something only disciples do. In John 11 after her brother Lazarus dies and is entombed, Jesus comes to Bethany and Mary runs out to him in grief and "falls at his feet" demonstrating trust in Jesus and his power to do something about her brother's death. In John 12, Mary, by anointing Jesus' feet and drying them with her hair, breaks many middle eastern and Jewish taboos regarding the behaviour of women in general (taking her hair down in the presence of men), and specifically with respect to single women and single men (intimately touching).

No one knew the feet of Jesus like Mary. But more so, these associations of Mary with Jesus' feet are examples of her attentiveness to Jesus, her love and trust of Jesus, her desire to learn from Jesus, and her prophetic ability to discern the signs of his impending death, when the other disciples could not. The anointing of feet was done to those who had already died.

The scene in John 12 where Mary anointed Jesus' feet with expensive spikenard (perfumed ointment) and was reprimanded by Judas for not using it to feed the poor is a revealing one. Jesus rises to the defence of Mary by saying: *"Leave her alone, it was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."*



This saying has so often been misunderstood, seemingly pitting devotion to Jesus and care for the poor against each other. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus was profoundly committed to alleviating the plight of the poor and oppressed, and challenging those who follow him to do the same. We do not readily understand Jesus' response as the disciples would have because we are not as familiar with the cues from the Jewish practice of quoting Torah. Do you notice in the text that there is no recorded retort from Judas or the disciples after Jesus quotes this verse?

The phrase: *You will always have the poor among you* is the first part of a verse from Deuteronomy 15:11. This would have been the cue for the disciples to chime in with the second part which says: *"therefore I command you to be open handed toward brothers and toward the poor and needy in the land."* Also, in verse 4 of the same chapter, God announces that: *"there should be no poor among you...if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commandments..."* So by saying what he did Jesus is reminding them that the very fact that there are poor is an indictment against us all for it means that we have therefore not been sufficiently openhanded (generous) to the poor, nor have we fully obeyed the commandments of God.

Devotion and attentiveness to Jesus; sitting at the feet of Jesus in adoration, trust and with a desire to learn and be formed into a faithful disciple **and** generous and just treatment of the poor and needy go hand in hand. Not only is there no conflict, but it seems clear that we cannot do well the latter if the former is not pursued.

UCO, by God's grace is seeking to continue in faithfulness to God and to follow in the way of Christ as it serves and cares for the poor, vulnerable and hurting. It is keeping these two pursuits together in its prayerfully undertaken ministry.

This is a ministry that intentionally comes alongside those experiencing poverty, homelessness and a host of marginalizing life situations. It does so in the power of God's Spirit, with grace, love and dedication. I continue to be convinced that holding firm to its

discerned commitment to privilege presence and accompaniment over heavy programming, is honouring to God's will for this ministry.

Despite the challenges of fluctuating and at times uncertain financial and material support for the ministry, Executive Director Jill Wilson and the hard-working Board members of UCO continue to steadfastly steward this ministry. It was my pleasure and privilege to lead them through a strategic and visioning retreat in late September. This was an opportunity to pray, reflect, and take stock of where the ministry is and of what some of the opportunities and challenges are for the work.



Over the year, I meet occasionally with Jill to support and encourage her, as well as to pray for the people UCO serves and for the ongoing financial, material and prayerful support of the ministry. Jill continues to be committed and passionate about being a humble instrument of God in the intentional ministry she undertakes with clients on the sidewalks and in coffee shops, in the classroom at the ROH, building networks with other ministries and organizations, and speaking in various venues on behalf of UCO.

Please let us continue to pray earnestly and faithfully for Jill and for UCO, and may we give generously and encourage others to give generously. Remember God has commanded us so to do: *"Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."* (Deut 15:11)

As well, plan to invite Jill to come to your congregation or your group so that she can tell the story of God's work being undertaken by UCO. May God continue to bless us all and this world that God so loves.

**Resurrection Joy to you all,  
Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey,  
Spiritual Advisor, UCO**



## **UCO Treasurer's Report for the Year 2012**

This has been a very tight year financially, as other charities must also have noticed, considering the current economic situation. The highlights are as follows:

UCO's total **income** in the year 2012 was **\$ 42,229.94**. Our budget target was **\$ 51,638.14**.

Total **expenses** were **\$ 47,477.60**, below the budgeted expense of **\$ 50,564.21**.

Our operating **deficit** was **\$ 5,247.66** for the year 2012.

The ratio of donations from individuals to churches is similar to last year:

- Individuals 58%
- Churches 42%

The breakdown of our 2012 expenses:

- Client Services/Payroll costs 90.8%
- Administration 8.2%
- Transportation 1.0%

Many thanks to our donors for their generous support; please continue to pray for God's provision, for this ministry to continue.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Mary-Anne Zwicker**

### **UCO Board of Directors**

As of March 24, 2013:

Ms. Donna Appleton  
The Rev. Neil Stephens  
Ms. Mary-Anne Zwicker  
Mr. Allen Macartney  
The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (*Ex-officio*)  
Ms. Jill Wilson (*Ex-officio*)