

Almonte United Church



Annual Report 2024

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Minister's Report

Annual Report 2024- Minister – Rev. Heather Kinkaid

It's a real privilege to be ministering among you again. You know our relationship goes back to 2011 just before Rev. Mary came; then during Covid, again during her sabbatical, and now until a full-time minister is covenanted here at AUC. Our deepest gratitude is extended to Rev. Mary for her inspiring and innovative ministry with us.

As your part-time appointed minister, my mission is to carry on the many facets of Christian nurture needed on a daily basis. Thus, my time is spent on worship and preparation; visiting people in hospitals, homes and here at the office; meetings, ecumenical events, administration, etc.

Two events were particularly meaningful:

- 1) The two summer services with the congregations of Community Presbyterian and Almonte United....one service at each church. Besides great turnouts, the singing, worship and fellowship were most inspiring to the extent, it was said: "We should do this more often."
- 2) The 'Coping with Christmas' gathering with people who were missing loved ones during the Christmas season. We used guided meditation, memories, candles, music and prayer to give us strength. Many thanks to David for the music and the Pastoral Care Team for providing lovely refreshments.

In closing, I wish to thank ALL of the congregation for their continued support and encouragement; the various Committees who dedicate their volunteer time, faith and energy to AUC; and my ever-patient amigos: Virginia, Kim and Bob. As St. Paul writes: "Now there are varieties of gifts, varieties of services, and varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). So may we continue to use our various gifts generously and lovingly for God's work here at Almonte United Church, in our community, and in our world.

Blessings, Rev. Heather Kinkaid 🙏🙏



Chair of Council

Now into year two, and perhaps getting my 'sea legs' beneath me, my role as your AUC Council Chair continues to be both exciting as well as very educational. My co-council members who know a great deal more about church polity will know exactly what I mean by "very educational!"

As we all know, this is a time of significant transition in our church, but I continuously feel a sense of dedication and enthusiasm that has continued to bind us (even tighter) over this past year.

Like many things, the real action takes place behind the scenes. You can rest assured there are a great deal of positive things going on in our very giving and hard-working church family. I will defer to your individual Committee Chairs of Ministry & Worship, Finance, Property, Auld Kirk, Trustees and Presbytery to give you the 'whole' story! Keep close watch - as you won't want to miss any of the many joyous things going on.

So, thank you to all who support our council, its sophomore Chair, and as always, I look forward to seeing you around!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mansfield (Chair)

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

(EOORC)

The EOORC office has moved from Carleton Place to Ottawa: Their new address there is :

EOORC
c/o First United Church
347 Richmond Rd.
Ottawa, ON
K2A 0E7

The first event in 2024 was an Educational Gathering with the theme "Being Courageous: A Time to Learn". This was an online event and was educational only. The date was Saturday, March 2, 2024.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Trinity United Church, 1099 Maitland Ave., Ottawa on May 31, 2024, and June 1, 2024. The theme was "Being Courageous: A Time to Chat".

The Fall meeting took place at the Trinity St. Andrews United Church in Renfrew, on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Rintoul

Auld Kirk Cemetery

2024 Report & Proposed Budget

Chairperson: Mary Fulton
Secretary/Treasurer: Elaine Fulton
Directors: Dawn Blackburn, Clarence Bowes, Toby Ford,
Elaine Fulton, Julie Julian, Keith Lowry,
Brian Morrison and Jill Moxley
Caretaker: Trent Weir
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.

2024 was an extremely busy year. There were 42 burials comprising of 9 casket burials and 33 cremations between May and November. A total of 40 plots/niches were sold.

Our Annual Decoration Day was held in August, and we are grateful to Rev. Matthew Dyck of Hillside Church for officiating. Friends and family were welcomed to visit during Decoration weekend and Board members were on-site to greet visitors. Despite some unfavourable weather, the cemetery was beautifully decorated. We had good foot traffic and received generous donations to the cemetery fund.

During 2024, we were able to purchase a second columbarium which will soon be needed.

Due to the abundance of rain, many extra hours were spent grass cutting.

Our cemetery mapping project continues.

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 and Trent Weir for their outstanding efforts and support to keep the cemetery in its usual high standard.

The Board is also to John Fulton who frequents the cemetery to lend a helping hand.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton

Auld Kirk Cemetery Proposed 2025 Budget

Auld Kirk Cemetery Proposed

Budget 2025	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Revenue					
Care & Maintenance Markers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,500.00
Care & Maintenance Plots	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,870.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,205.00	\$ 15,000.00
Donation Income	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,119.55	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,423.19	\$ 7,500.00
Special Donations		\$ 347.00		\$ 5,531.50	\$ 1,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 26,736.55	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 28,059.69	\$ 27,000.00

Foundations

Foundation Income	\$ -	\$ 58.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Foundation Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.00	\$ -
Total Foundations	\$ -	\$ 58.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Investment Income

GIC - Illingworth	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,703.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 1,304.00	\$ 3,000.00
CIBC Mellon Trust Income	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 23,454.36	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 26,883.16	\$ 27,000.00
Total Investment Income	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 27,157.36	\$ 27,700.00	\$ 28,187.16	\$ 30,000.00

Engraving Sales

Engraving Income	\$ -	\$ 199.15	\$ -	\$ 376.67	\$ 400.00
Engraving Expenses	\$ -2,500.00	\$ -4,404.65	\$ -2,500.00	\$ -5,887.00	\$ -6,000.00
Total Engraving Balance	\$ -2,500.00	\$ -4,205.50	\$ -2,500.00	\$ -5,510.33	\$ -5,600.00

Other Revenues

Open & Close	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,300.00	\$ 25,000.00
Overtime Fees & Vault Charges	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,425.00	\$ 3,500.00
Rental Income	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Sale of Internment Rights	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 38,950.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,450.00	\$ 37,000.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 60,900.00	\$ 71,100.00	\$ 70,900.00	\$ 60,575.00	\$ 66,900.00

Other Revenue

Other Revenue					
Transfer of Plots	\$ 600.00	\$ -350.00	\$ -300.00	\$ -	\$ -300.00
Vault Storage Income		\$ 50.00		\$ -	

Total Other Revenue	\$ 600.00	-\$ 300.00	-\$ 300.00	\$ -	-\$ 300.00
Monies to C&M Trust					
Care & Maintenance Sent To Trust	-\$ 15,000.00	-\$ 15,409.45	-\$ 15,000.00	-\$ 18,365.00	-\$ 18,000.00
Total Monies to C&M Trust	-\$ 15,000.00	-\$ 15,409.45	-\$ 15,000.00	-\$ 18,365.00	-\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 105,137.46	\$ 106,800.00	\$ 92,946.52	\$ 100,000.00

Auld Kirk Cemetery Proposed

Budget 2025	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
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EXPENSE

Administration Expense

	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Bank Charges & Interest	400.00	330.86	400.00	329.95	400.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Decoration Day Expense	500.00	489.50	500.00	489.50	500.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office Expense	750.00	755.50	750.00	763.92	800.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Licenses	1,000.00	984.77	1,500.00	1,375.12	1,500.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Misc. Expense	700.00	5,436.79	5,500.00	6,374.22	6,500.00
Total Administration Expense	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 7,997.42	\$ 8,650.00	\$ 9,332.71	\$ 9,700.00

Operating Expense

	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Equipment Repair & Mtce	1,000.00	96.78	1,000.00	1,662.18	1,000.00
				\$	
Equipment Replacement				-	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gas	1,200.00	1,483.63	1,500.00	1,552.21	1,600.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grass Cutting/Snow Plowing	7,200.00	3,965.13	5,000.00	6,587.50	5,000.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Grave Open/Close	6,000.00	5,185.00	5,000.00	3,700.00	4,000.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Hydro	480.00	384.88	400.00	371.22	400.00
Almonte United -Rent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Expense	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,800.00	2,000.00
Almonte United -Insurance	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Exp	3,000.00	1,193.98	1,500.00	3,695.10	3,195.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Memorial Markers	-	-	-	-	-
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Misc. Supplies	300.00	42.56	300.00	386.39	400.00
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Phone	600.00	827.62	900.00	653.52	700.00

Property Tax	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,155.90	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,183.89	\$ 1,200.00
Soil & Gravel	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,118.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00
Property Maintenance Expense	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 9,709.99	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
Columbarium Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 11,000.00
Map Info Project	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,074.82	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,961.56	\$ 7,000.00
Boundary Fence Project	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 4,850.00		\$ -	
Monument Project	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
Transfer to Investments					
Total Operating Expense	\$ 42,180.00	\$ 37,688.29	\$ 61,600.00	\$ 53,053.57	\$ 39,095.00
Payroll Expenses					
Salary - Caretaker	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 16,510.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 24,724.80	\$ 25,000.00
Salary - Secretary/Bookkeeper	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,260.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 11,000.00
Salary - Bookkeeper	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,869.79	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,482.60	\$ 4,000.00
Staff Honorarium		\$ 500.00		\$ -	
Caretaker Honorariums		\$ 2,200.00		\$ -	
EI Expense	\$ 550.00	\$ 376.94	\$ 550.00	\$ 574.78	\$ 600.00
CPP Expense				\$ 1,363.07	\$ 1,400.00
WSIB Expense	\$ 350.00	\$ 195.75	\$ 350.00	\$ 210.33	\$ 350.00
Total Payroll Expense	\$ 34,800.00	\$ 31,912.48	\$ 35,900.00	\$ 41,255.58	\$ 42,350.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 80,330.00	\$ 77,598.19	\$ 106,150.00	\$ 103,641.86	\$ 91,145.00
Net Gain/Loss for the period	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 27,539.27	\$ 650.00	-\$ 10,695.34	\$ 8,855.00

Congregational Life and Care

Cards

Joyce Nicholson of our Pastoral Care team reaches out to our congregation members via email or a card on behalf of our congregation when we are aware of birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, or grief. Please let Joyce know of any cards you wish to be sent or of people who could benefit from a card. Notify her by phone 613-256-2653 or e-mail at nicholsonjoyce76@gmail.com. I trust this ongoing outreach to our church family has been helpful and comforting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce

Coffee Time

On most Sundays when the church is open, coffee time is held in the social hall to encourage everyone to stay after the service to mingle and chat. Thank you, Nick and Dini Frans, for all your hard work.

Pastoral Care Task Group Report

Pastoral Task Group members:

Nancy Peters, Joyce Nicholson, Laurie Blackstock, Eleanor Rintoul

Every December we deliver a small poinsettia and a Christmas card to many individuals in the congregation who are sick, lonely, shut-ins or bereaved. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver for this special and important task.

We now deliver tulips and Easter cards to the shut-ins, etc. We are always looking for folks to join the Pastoral Care Team. If you are interested, please get in touch with me, Eleanor Rintoul and if you know of someone who would like a visit, please let someone on the Pastoral Care Team know.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Rintoul

Catering and Hospitality sub-Committee Report

2024 Almonte Community Luncheon Re-Starts

The “Seniors Luncheon” started many years ago when ladies from 3 churches came together to provide lunch and a social opportunity for seniors living alone. No one knows the exact year they started. Over the years more Almonte churches and volunteers became involved, and the name changed to Almonte Community Luncheon. The luncheons ran continuously from October to May, for an estimated 50+ years until spring of 2020 when covid-19 shut them down.

In 2024 the Almonte Community Luncheons started up again on Tuesday February 20th.

With continued involvement from 5 Almonte churches and community volunteers, a light lunch of soup, sandwiches and homemade desserts is offered on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. A fee continues to be charged to cover any expenses.

On a rotating schedule, each of the churches takes a turn supplying the desserts. All other supplies are purchased and a reduced kitchen/hall rent fee is paid to AUC.

Any funds left after expenses, is donated back to the community. In 2024 we donated money to the healthy snack programs at four Almonte's schools and also made a donation to the Lions Club/Carebridge Christmas hampers.

Marriages, Baptisms and Burials report

There were no baptisms performed in 2024, but we did register 2 marriages and 5 burials.

Finance & Stewardship

Finance Committee and Stewardship Report

Finance Committee: Robert Lesser (Chair), Nick Frans

FINANCE

As another year passes, it is time to review our financial situation and consider our 2025 budget for approval during our upcoming congregational general meeting. The good news is that 2024 ended with a surplus of \$53,539.00, that included withdrawing \$65,000.00 from the General Trust Fund, meaning that we only required \$11,461.00 to augment our regular revenue stream. This positive news must be considered knowing that significant expenses were not incurred due to the absence of a full-time minister for half of the year and the most generous donations from the Helen and Arthur Levi Foundation and members of our congregation for the purchase of a new dishwasher.

Considering the present challenges facing Canada and our community due to the actions of the US administration – and who knows what that will be as you are reading this – our 2025 budget is in-line with our actual 2024 budget in terms of revenue. This is true as well for our anticipated expenses, anticipating welcoming our new minister sometime early summer, and the cost to repair our roof and other repair and maintenance costs projected to be \$12,000.

Augmenting the following summary of our 2024 and draft 2025 budgets, the following is provided for your background information concerning our budgets.

Concerning the dishwasher, surplus donations and the roof repair project: the total cost of the dishwasher was \$12,847.53, for which we received \$15,830.40. The surplus of \$2,982.87 plus \$50.00 received in 2025, for a total of \$3,023.87, was transferred into the Insurance and Roof Repairs Payable portion of the 2025 budget.

Our church has a bank agreement to hold a \$25,000 Line of Credit (LOC) to be used if operations require payments when the church bank account goes below zero balance. These advances are in \$5,000.00 increments up to and including \$25,000. A total of \$325.52 of interest was used to cover the 9 draws required during the operational Year of 2024. Bank Interest rates for this overdraft protection is based on current LOC rates. As of the end of 2024 the LOC was at zero balance.

We paid out the \$40,000 CERB payment in January of 2024, with \$10,000 being a forgivable and the remaining \$30,000.00 paid from operations. Current balance is zero with CERB -CRA Government of Canada

The church uses Trust Funds to help to cover debit resulting from our LOC balance due to operational shortfalls. The Church drew \$65,000.00 for operations and \$458.00 for our yearly commitment to Young and Rains with half, \$229.00, going to church operations and the other half, \$229.00, going to the United Church M&S fund.

The church's accounting practice is accrual based, which means expenses are posted to the year they occur. We use the ADP payroll services for full time employees and all part time employees are processed thru the Church Sage Accounting software. Almonte United Church pays the United Church of Canada Assessment fees each year based on the prior year assessment of Church revenue & expenses. In 2024, Almonte United Church paid \$6,278.00 to the United Church of Canada.

We are very appreciative of the services of Bob Watson, our bookkeeper, who tracks and records the myriads of financial data, without whom we would be sorely lost. Thanks also to Nick Frans for his creation of the monthly financial bulletin entries, working all the figures to present a comprehensive yet understandable accounting of our finances and for his sage advice and guidance throughout the years.

STEWARDSHIP

**What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah: 6:8**

Stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe. It involves nurturing our faith, by reading and studying, financially supporting our community of faith and sharing our laughter and tears. Stewardship is supporting one another, our Church, our community, our country and the world.

In February 2024, we had a Souper Bowl Sunday with takeout bags of soup, tea biscuits or rolls and cookies. Spring began with an Easter Extravaganza Market, a congregational outdoor cleanup day, our Second Annual Plant Sale and the creation of the Community Raised Vegetable Beds.

Summer began with a wonderful movie night, complete with hot dogs and popcorn. Movie Nights continued in the Fall.

During the Summer, lots of veggies were available for both the congregation and the community. The flower bed along the Social Hall was revamped by another congregational work crew.

As we entered Fall, in addition to movie night we had an Awesome Autumn Market and a pumpkin carving contest. A new initiative to provide prepared meals for the congregation has met with success. The first two Marvellous Monday Meals occurred in November and December and will continue in 2025. Originally, it was thought that this would fill a need for some of our older congregants, however, it has been embraced by all ages of the congregation. We had a successful Christmas Market, featuring tins of our homemade cookies and a large variety of gift baskets.

In all, a total of \$10,468 was raised to support our church. Thanks to all who helped with the various activities including setting up the hall, selling fertilizer in the rain, donating wonderful baked goods and items, buying those same items and the many other tasks that made for successful events. A special note of thanks to Mary Smiley for initiating, overseeing and coordinating the activities and for providing the Stewardship details in this report. Fun raising and fundraising, many volunteers, much laughter and camaraderie.

In addition to the stewardship activities locally, the congregation was very supportive of many outreach activities. Pre-Christmas donations to help members of the Almonte community included many pajamas, various food supplies and Christmas stockings packed full of personal use items. The congregation also continued to support Mission and Service with donations totaling \$17,289. With the exceptional, continuing generosity of Penlow Farms, and donations from the congregation, \$7,581 was raised to support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Other project-specific donations included \$3,440 for the Lanark County Food Bank/Hunger Stop, \$1,615 to Camp Lauren and \$1,596 to the Likulezi project. The congregation was indeed very generous and supportive, in the spirit of Stewardship.

Bob Lesser
Chair, Finance Committee

**Almonte United Church
2021 - 2024
Income/Expense
and 2025
proposed Budget**

REVENUE	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed
Envelope Income	\$26,445	\$28,486	\$25,347	\$28,000	\$31,690	\$27,300
E-Transfer General	\$14,165	\$17,895	\$18,055	\$18,000	\$21,145	\$22,000
PAR Income	\$53,910	\$55,347	\$53,451	\$56,000	\$49,876	\$50,000
Plate & Cash Offering	\$100	\$1,086	\$2,391	\$2,500	\$3,422	\$3,600
Other offerings	\$1,630	\$150	\$170	\$1,000	\$1,675	\$1,950
Fund Raising	\$159	\$135	\$2,726	\$3,000	\$10,468	\$9,000
Rentals	\$19,964	\$22,536	\$23,890	\$25,250	\$32,139	\$31,150
Young & Rains Bequest	\$284	\$1,175	\$652	\$285	\$229	\$230
Other Revenue	\$10	\$80	\$358	\$0	\$232	\$0
Government Covid funds	\$15,048	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Manse Trust Funds	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
General Trust Funds	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$65,000	\$50,000
CREB Loan forgiveness			\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$176,714	\$196,889	\$177,039	\$244,035	\$225,876	\$195,230
EXPENSE						
Interim Pastor	\$0	\$10,204	\$0	\$0	\$21,251	\$21,000
Payroll Minister and Administrator	\$93,121	\$96,869	\$99,117	\$107,050	\$59,437	\$60,159
Pastoral Travel and Education	\$266	\$972	\$1,075	\$2,135	\$1,500	\$1,700
Learning & Outreach	\$266	\$0	\$331	\$175	\$153	\$310
Worship Expense	\$17,137	\$18,723	\$19,199	\$19,407	\$19,276	\$20,680
Congregation Life & Care	\$1,595	\$1,094	\$1,386	\$1,750	\$1,128	\$2,430
Administration Expense	\$12,749	\$13,593	\$12,963	\$14,128	\$12,884	\$14,045
Presbytery Assessment	\$8,409	\$6,016	\$6,365	\$6,200	\$6,278	\$6,500
Property Maintenance	\$17,848	\$15,006	\$27,347	\$19,790	\$21,097	\$22,765
Utilities - Gas, Hydro, Water	\$9,186	\$11,714	\$15,365	\$17,200	\$14,471	\$15,450
Insurance	\$14,799	\$18,625	\$17,638	\$15,500	\$13,495	\$15,500
Major Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$3,308	\$3,000	\$1,767	\$12,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$172,642	\$192,816	\$204,094	\$206,335	\$172,737	\$192,539
TOTAL REVENUE	\$176,714	\$196,889	\$177,039	\$244,035	\$225,876	\$195,230
NET INCOME	\$4,072	\$4,073	-\$27,055	\$37,700	\$53,139	\$2,691

OUTREACH AND GIVINGS

	2024	2023
Mission and Service	\$17,289	\$20,552
Likulezi	\$1,596	\$3,832
Camp Lauren	\$1,615	\$1,750
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	\$7,581	\$8,538
Local Foodbank	\$3,440	\$4,817
Total Outreach Givings	\$31,521	\$39,489

Balance Sheet - December 31, 2024

Assets	2024	2023
Petty Cash	\$200	\$200
Bank operating funds - Bank of Montreal	\$11,044	-\$7,225
HST recoverable	\$2,369	\$1,527
Prepaid expenses	\$480	\$351
Total Assets	\$14,094	-\$5,147
Liabilities		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Accounts Payable Operations	\$1,224	\$0
Federal Covid-19 Loan	\$0	\$40,000
Likulezi project	\$1,381	-\$215
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,606	\$39,785
<i>Designated Funds</i>		
Roof repair fund*	\$2,983	\$0
Youth Group	\$768	\$768
B. Bridges fund (library)	\$27	\$27
Senior Choir music fund	\$468	\$468
Memorial Fund	\$8,318	\$8,420
Total Designated Funds	\$12,564	\$9,683
Total Liabilities	\$15,170	\$49,469
Accumulated carryover (surplus/-deficit)	-\$54,615	-\$27,560
Current year (surplus/-deficit)	\$53,539	-\$27,055
Net Equity	-\$1,076	-\$54,615
Liabilities & Net Equity	\$14,094	-\$5,147

*This fund is the result of money left over from the dishwasher purchase. The total of donations for the purchase of the dishwasher is \$15,830. The total cost of the dishwasher was \$12,848 and the balance (\$2983) has been transferred to the roof repair fund with the agreement of the donors.

Learning & Outreach

Bert Brydges Memorial Library

In this busy year, I have ~~cleaned~~ cleaned up the collection of books we have and organized some more.

Thank
you,
Donna
Smith

Canadian Food Grains Bank Report

Canadian Foodgrains 2024 Project

For the 2024 Mississippi Mills growing project, we grew grain corn. The crop was planted on May 17th into wetter than ideal ground conditions. A warm temperature in May/June, and hot/humid temperatures in July/August, accompanied by excessive rainfall, made growing conditions ideal for this year's project. We harvested an above average crop of 5.2T/acre in early November. Corn Prices dropped significantly in 2024. No future contract was signed, so the selling price at harvest was \$210/t. Corn is a very expensive crop to grow, but thankfully the high yield ensured a profit for this year's project.

2025's project will be soybeans to ensure a proper crop rotation is maintained.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Lowry and Lindsay Cavanagh



2024 MISSISSIPPI MILLS CANADIAN FOOD GRAINS

PROJECT Financial Report

8 acres of corn planted May 19th, 2024

Expenses:	Per Acre	Donated	not Donated	Donated By
Seed	\$142.00	\$1136.00		BTLF(Andy Ross)
Fertilizer				
-spring broadcast	98.00	-	\$784.00	
-broadcast application	12.00	96.00		Penlow Farms
-starter (in furrow)	76.60	-	612.80	
-sidedress (in July)	70.00	-	560.00	
-sidedress application	12.00	-	96.00	
Spay herbicide	48.72	-	389.76	
application	13.00	-	104.00	
Tillage	30.00	240.00	-	Penlow Farms
Planting	38.00	-	304.00	
Crop Insurance	14.04	-	112.32	
Harvesting	75.00	600.00	-	Hilliard Farms
Land rent	60.00	480.00	-	Penlow Farms
Trucking to Elevator				
@ \$13.50 per tonne		-	561.60	
Drying and handling at Elevator				
@ \$21.76 per tonne - 905.22				

Total \$2552.00 \$4429.70

Gross Revenue: crop yield 5.2 per acre x 8 acres = 41.6 tonne x \$210. per tonne = \$8736.00

Net crop Revenue: \$8736.00 minus expenses \$4429.70 = \$4306.30 Our total donation

to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is:

net crop revenue \$4306.30 + congregational donations \$3274.70 = **\$7581.00**



The Lanark Food Bank Report

This year, the AUC Youth Group is honoured to submit the report for our church family donations to the Lanark County Hunger Stop. Through the October Food Drive run by our youth, “Fill Up Meryl the Truck”, we were able to collect 436 pounds of food and \$571.54 in cash donations. As well, our congregation participated in the November/December Stocking Drive and gathered 95 stockings for adult clients of the food bank.

Special thanks to Ron MacMeekin for his leadership and commitment to the Food Bank and feeding our neighbours. As well, we would like to thank our church family for their generosity and continued support for this important community outreach. We enthusiastically support and join in the food bank’s goal of providing safe and nutritional food assistance to persons in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Graff for The AUC Youth Group



Líkulezi Project Report

The Likulezi Committee:

Doug Younger-Lewis, Laurie Blackstock, Bob Lesser, Liz Barron and Evelyn Ironside

Likulezi Project

Website: <http://www.africaaware.net/>

Facebook Public Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/likulezipublicgroup>

Mission Statement: *That the community be empowered to develop their potential in the face of poverty and disease.*

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.

Support from Almonte United Church

The congregation has been supporting this project in Malawi for almost 30 years. New team members are welcome to join the AUC Likulezi Group and individual donations are always appreciated. You can do so through the church by indicating "For Likulezi Project" in the memo line of e-transfers, cheques or envelopes.

In 2024 we raised \$856 for the Project at the AUC plant sale on May 18 by selling baked goods, sandwiches, refreshments and mushroom compost. By the end of 2024, funds reached \$1381.29, which will be transferred to the Project in May or June 2025, in addition to more funds raised at the next AUC Plant Sale.

Financial Report

E-Transfers from members (2)	\$700.00 (May 19 & Dec 11)
Loose donations	\$856.00 (Plant Sale - May 19)
Member donations	\$ 40.00 (June 16 to Oct 27)
Total	\$1,596.00
Less 2023 overpayment	-\$ 214.71
Balance	\$1,381.29

Zikomo! Thank you!

Submitted by Laurie Blackstock

On behalf of the AUC Likulezi Group: Doug Younger-Lewis, Bob Lesser, Evelyn Ironside, and Liz Barron.

Sunday School and Youth Group Report

Sunday School Report

What a joy it is to look back on the 2024 year with the youngest members of our church family. With a registration of 15 children and youth, we took on the task of following in Jesus's footsteps with enthusiasm and great love. Weekly lessons saw us singing, playing, joining in Bible study, creating art, and sharing our own stories with each other. Here are a few of the highlights of our year of learning, growing and caring...

Caring for Creation:

Our Sunday School and Youth took to heart the task of Caring for God's Creation with a focus on how we can take care of our world as stewards of the Earth. We joined with student teams from around the world in creating pieces of art that reflected a focus on the environment, helping to raise money through Students Rebuild for organizations such as The World Wildlife Federation and the Amahl Project. We raised over \$1000.00 by creating over 100 pieces of art!

Our Sunday School classes focused on the many Bible passages that tell us about creation and how we are all a part of God's beautiful world.

The Work of Many Hands:

We lovingly contributed to the life of our church in so many ways: making seed bombs for the annual plant sale, our Earth Day clean up, creating classroom recycle containers, reading in church, sharing our musical talents, preparing rocks for our church's Truth and Reconciliation observations, making so many prayer flags, and preparing love cookies for the final Sunday in Advent as a gift for our church family ... all were ways that we put our faith into action.

Leading the Way:

Some of our favourite moments came when we helped lead worship with our church family. Our Sunday School Celebration Service saw us once again invite our congregation to experience worship in different ways that included stations where we explored a variety of ways of praying, learned about the gifts of creation, discovered God's bounty of food from our fields, and came together in gratitude, with a promise to care for our beautiful planet. We also led our annual Children's Advent Service where we asked the congregation to wear their pyjamas and come play with us as we travelled to Bethlehem through the Latin tradition of Las Posadas. 51 pairs of pyjamas were collected for Interval House with much thanks to our generous church family.

With Great Appreciation...

Sunday School wouldn't happen without the care of our families and adults in the congregation. Our dedicated team of teachers, Jessica Badger, Rachel Capp, and Margie Graff, are grateful for and humbled by the opportunity to work with our young people and the blessing of nurturing the faith of our youngest church members. As well, special thanks goes to the Worship Committee, Rev. Mary and Rev. Heather for their continuous support of our programming. Finally, our biggest "high five" goes out to our church family for their love and encouragement as we grow and learn together. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church where we feel so supported each and every day.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Graff and The AUC Sunday School Kids











Youth Group Report

What happens when you take 13 teens and bring them together to take action? Almonte United Church Youth Group happens! It has been an amazing year of difference-making, and our youth did it all with great passion, friendship and a true sense of fun. Bi-weekly meetings brought the group of Grade 5 through Grade 12 youth together from both the congregation and community to participate in fun nights as well as faith in action projects. Bowling, Maker Nights, Escape Rooms and our infamous Turkey Trot Meeting kept things lively between the hard work this group took part in throughout the year. Check out the highlights from our year of service...

Rocking Readathon and Used Book Sale for SchoolBOX:

In February, we hosted the community at our huge used book sale and readathon. Not only did our youth sort and display over 1 000 new and used books, but they also ran a book themed canteen (with thanks to Mary Smiley for all her help with our kitchen crew), hosted celebrity readers from the community, ran a children's activity area and repurposed book workshops. The event raised over \$2 000.00 for SchoolBOX to partner with Indigenous communities building libraries in Treaty 3.

The Extraordinary Earth Project

From January to June, our youth were busy creating eco-art to help raise money for a variety of environmental causes through Students Rebuild. This talented crew took on the additional challenge of recreating the eco-sculpture created by Benjamin Wong entitled "The Giant Tap". Our art piece stood over 8 feet tall and graced our sanctuary from May through to September as a reminder to ebb the flow of plastics in our waterways. The youth were recognized by both Wong himself, and the Students Rebuild team for their efforts with a donation of \$1 000.00 to their environmental fund raising.

Prayer Flags

Our very popular prayer flag installation was spearheaded by our youth who took on the creation of these flags themselves and facilitated the congregation in their maker session during Camping Sunday. Hours of work saw them raise the flags high in our sanctuary, making a beautiful addition to the sanctuary decor.

Camping Sunday

Under the leadership of one of our senior youth, Jack Lockhart, the group took on the Camping Sunday service for the first time. The sharing of camp experiences, the connections made at camp to each other, nature and God, as well as the maker's session, all contributed to a meaningful morning.

Truth and Reconciliation

Our youth continued their commitment to Truth and Reconciliation with their annual "Gifts From the Land Sale" at both the Almonte Fall Night Market and after church sale, with proceeds going to the work of SchoolBOX in Indigenous communities. They also helped facilitate the church's own observations on Orange Shirt Sunday and were instrumental in leading the community vigil on September 30th.

Food Drive

As part of their year of service, the youth took on their first month long food drive and were able to raise 436 pounds of food along with \$571.54 in cash donations. They then delivered the food to the Lanark County Food Stop where they learned about the food bank then volunteered sorting and shelving our own and others' contributions.

Fun, friendship and faith in action... all came together in a super year! Special thanks goes to our Worship Committee and church family for their continued support and encouragement. We can't wait to keep the good works going!

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Graff and the AUC Youth Group Members (Ellie Badger, Emmett Badger, Elias Gerges, Olivia Holmes, Jessica Jarrous, Lana Gerges, Dot Lockhart, Jack Lockhart, Declan Moore, Cole Stevenson, Dev Stevenson, Rowen Stevenson, Erika Toop)

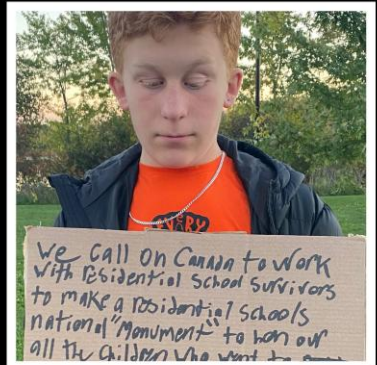
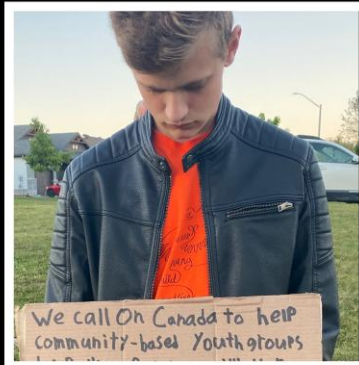
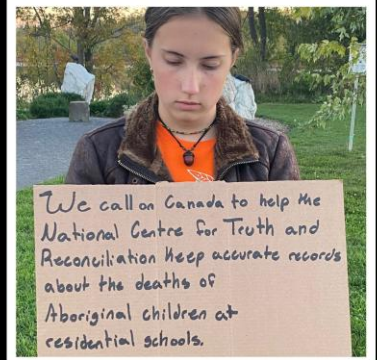












Ministry and Personnel Report

M & P Committee

Members:

Mary Smiley (Chair)

Dorothy Day

John Day

Ron MacMeekin

And [Jesus] said to them, 'Take care!'" (Luke 12:15)

The mandate of the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is to care for ministry personnel and lay employees. We do this by listening to what is being communicated to us by those in paid accountable ministry, on staff and as members of our Community of Faith.

Each member of the Almonte United Church M&P Committee does this to the best of their ability. They are diligent in ensuring that the responsibility they have been entrusted with is done so with care, compassion, while ensuring confidentiality is maintained.

We are truly grateful for the ministry over the past 13 years, of the Rev. Mary Royal Duczk, who in April asked for a change in pastoral relations to answer a new call to ministry with the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region. We approached the Rev. Heather Kinkaid and she accepted an appointment as our Supply Minister, while we are in search mode.

Our lay staff are hard working and dedicated. We appreciate their loyalty and support as we navigate these uncertain times. Virginia Atkinson keeps the office running smoothly. Kim Julian manages the logistics of having our sanctuary and space clean and ready for whatever the next event might be. Neil Milnes provides his wonderful ministry of music with the voices of our growing choir. Bob Watson does all the bookkeeping while dealing with the General Council Office and government.

We appreciate and lift up to you each one of them. Please let them know how much you appreciate them when you see them next.

Respectfully submitted

Dorothy Day, John Day, Ron MacMeekin and Mary Smiley

Property and Maintenance Committee Report

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

2024 was another 'repair and maintain' year which involved things like fixing chairs, decorative brackets, loose hinges, etc. Thanks Tony Funnekotter and Leon Page for your woodworking. The entrance foyer roof occasionally leaked and work was done to seal it but unfortunately appears to need further attention in the spring. As always, many thanks to our custodian Kim Julian and everyone who has dedicated time and effort to maintenance, repair, and cleaning projects this year. This year will still have repair and maintenance work, but the focus will be on the improving the function of our beloved building. With increased functionality comes efficiency and comfort. There are big and little things that can be done to help make life easier and provide the necessary tools so volunteers can keep doing the amazing things they do, whether it's a new commercial dishwasher, a lever type door handle, or a simple sign to guide the way.

We've been focused on the energy efficiency projects related to the Faithful Footprints grant program which will wrap up before spring 2025.

Beyond the FF grant, we will keep exploring small are large projects that can be done to create a more cost effective and sustainable physical environment where we can gather and pray for years to come.

A community veggie garden took shape very quickly. Thank you for orchestrating Mary Smiley. See further message below.

Our group is excited to announce that the Pavilion project commenced. Initial design process and excavation/foundation work was completed before the frost. A special thanks to Doug Parsons, for donating his time and precision excavating to help us break ground for the piers, and to the large group of volunteers who came to pour the concrete and set the foundation. Early 2025 will see the off-site construction of the log/timber structure by Stuart Morrison (and Brian Morrison) and installation at AUC in spring/summer.

Thank you to everyone who donates their time and money and all those before us that strived to keep this safe and wonderful space alive.

All the best to you and yours in 2025,

Andrew Badger, Chair of the Property Committee

Words from the 'AUC Green Thumbs' gardening group:

To everything there is a time a time to plant and a time to reap. Ecclesiastes 3:1

During 2024, the congregation gathered three times to clear the area along the sanctuary wall, the flower beds, and around our property line. We ranged in age from 5 to 90. With everyone pitching in, trimming, weeding, moving river rock away from the sanctuary wall, clearing brush, tree trimming and the hauling away many trailer loads of garden refuse to someone who has been able to utilize it, many hands made light work of these many tasks.

With the clean-up of the area along the sanctuary wall, the idea of a community veggie garden germinated and took root. The raised beds were made possible because of the generous giving of time, talent, and materials. Many thanks to Peter and Marilee Mansfield, Leon Page, Brian Morrison and Richard van Dusendyk for their generous donations. A wide variety of vegetables and herbs were planted and were enjoyed by both the congregation and the commas a whole. Bodies and souls were fed. A new raised bed has been created near the kitchen door and will provide more room for a growing garden. Many thanks to all who contributed plants. This project did not cost AUC

anything financially, as everything was donated. From nothing, grew a bounty. The flower bed along the Social Hall has had an initial clean out, however more needs to be done. The clematis that were along the sanctuary to honour a past member, have been moved to the flower bed and two trellis were purchased from the Memorial Fund to encourage them to thrive. Many thanks to Leon Page, Sean Norris, Kim Julian, Peter Mansfield, Paul Schnittker, Emmett Badger and Graham Badger in the clearing of the overgrown brush and tree limbs that needed to be removed, especially those infected fruit tree limbs that were removed and properly destroyed by Laurie Rintoul.



Board of Trustees Report

Almonte United Church
Board of Trustees
2024 Annual Report

Members: Richard Alexander Marina Johnston
Terry Church Willie Haliburton
Ihor Korbabicz

You will notice that we have a new Trustee Board member. We are pleased to welcome Ihor Korbabicz. It is great to have a member much younger than all the seniors on the board. Beverly Taylor has resigned/retired after serving on the Board for a number of years and we wish her all the best in her retirement. We have good news again this year regarding the return on our Trust Account investments. The return was between 15% and 16%.

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. However, it appears that we made a good decision 2-3 years ago when we, along with many other United Churches, joined together with one investment company who is aware of our risk tolerances while ensuring that the best possible return is obtained.

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

Activity for 2024 General Trust is as follows.

Contributions: \$230. – income from the Young & Raines Bequest

Withdrawals: \$65,000. - (\$30K for Gov loan repayment)
\$35K for AUC operating expenses)

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.

	<u>Dec 31/22</u>	<u>Dec 31/23</u>	<u>Dec 31/24</u>
Manse Trust	\$276,521.	\$292,157.	\$339,141.
General Trust	\$209,787.	\$167,085.	\$119,739.
AKC Trust	\$153,385.	\$158,820.	\$182,161.

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 our AUC Office Manager Virginia Atkinson, for her assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Alexander,
Chair of Trustees.

Worship Committee report

Worship Committee Members

**Terri-Lynn Funnekotter – Chair, Rev. Heather Kinkaid, Margie Graff,
Neil Milnes, and David Fewtrell**

As we reflect on the past year of worship within our congregation, the Worship Committee is grateful for the opportunity to share the diverse and meaningful experiences that have enriched our congregation. These moments have drawn us closer as a community and to God. We would like to express our gratitude for the congregation's involvement and commitment to Amonte United Church.

2024 Highlights:

Our services were enriched with Pulpit Supply by Norma Wrightley, Rev. Matt Gallinger, and Rev. Heather Kinkaid.

We welcomed Stephanie Rudyk as our new Communion Coordinator.

World Day of Prayer took place at Hillside Presbyterian Church with approximately 40 people attending.

In April we hosted a seminar called, "Hope for the Best, Prepare for the Rest" by Vicki Bassett, a nurse educator and palliative care nurse joined us for a session on an approach to life changing events in a person's life.

AUC participated in the Community Open House, which was a huge success with lots of folks stopping by our booth to chat; thanks to Rev. Mary and Maria for being our representatives at this event, as well as a thank you to Bob Lesser and Margie Graff for creating a brochure and display, and to Mary Smiley for the popcorn that was handed out.

Services were continued at Fairview and Country Haven.

Thank you to Jack Lockhart and the Youth Group for hosting the Camping Sunday service with 96 people in attendance. The theme was around the connections camp makes to nature, to people and to God. The congregation participated enthusiastically in the Morning Watch and Prayer Flag making. In addition, The Giant Tap installation, created by our Youth Group as part of the Extraordinary Earth Project was revealed.

On June 2nd we had the Sunday School Celebration Service "Caring for Creation" with attendance of approximately 70 people joining us. The prayer flag installation was unveiled, and worship stations were visited by all.

In June, we hosted our Anniversary Service. Rev. Ann Montgomery was our guest speaker, helping us celebrate our 190th year. Glenn and Neil joined together in some special music; cake was enjoyed after the service and Bob Lesser took a wonderful group photo of everyone.

June 23rd was Rev. Mary's last service followed by a potluck lunch. She was presented with many meaningful gifts, including a stole handmade by Nicola Webb and a framed print of the church drawn by Peter Mansfield, gifts from the Sunday School and Youth group, as well as other gifts by the congregation. The Worship Committee would like to extend our gratitude for the time we have shared visioning, planning, and reflecting on the worship experience over the past 13 years with Rev. Mary. We wish Rev. Mary all the best in her new role with the region and want her to know we feel truly blessed to have worked alongside her.

We welcomed Rev. Heather Kinkaid into our church family as we started the search for a new Minister. Rev. Heather has provided spiritual leadership and guidance to our congregation and directly with the Worship Committee. We would like to express our gratitude for her wisdom and inspiring words.

A Search Committee was created, consisting of 9 people who have worked tirelessly in their dedication to finding a new minister for AUC. They continue to commit to this endeavor.

July 21st and August 25th were shared services with the Presbyterian Church which was a wonderful opportunity to get to know of sister congregation.

September 22 was our Welcome Sunday and Potluck. 'Getting to Know You' surveys were filled out

at each table with results for Favourite Things about AUC being friendly, helpful people, music/choir, fellowship, light, building and children/youth. Suggestions included more music and types of instruments, encouragement for more younger people to join the congregation, prayers that reflect the real world, updating the sanctuary, larger clock in the hall and grab bars in the accessible washroom.

September 29 was Truth and Reconciliation Sunday (Orange Shirt Sunday). The Youth Group created chalk art at the entrance, with orange painted rocks created by members of the congregation and Sunday School. Many commented on how much this meant to them. Rev Heather noted it was a holy moment, with the rocks becoming part of the outdoor display the children and youth had prepared at the front of the church. The completed art installation welcomed guests to the afternoon film screening of Wapaaanake (Tomorrow), which took place in the sanctuary.

October 6 Worldwide Communion celebrated the breads of the world.

November 10th was our Remembrance Sunday. Our talented musicians included Jack Lockhart on the bagpipes and Glenn Morrison on trumpet, with Brian Morrison reading the Roll of Honour. Peter Blenkarn provided World War II memorabilia throughout the sanctuary.

The Children's Advent Service, "Las Posadas", was well attended and the congregation entered into worshipful play with enthusiasm! 51 pairs of pyjamas were donated and delivered to Interval House. Our December Music Sunday brought the Senior Choir's Cantata, "Joy", which was also a huge success. Many thanks go out to the choir, guest singers, guest musicians, and Neil for this joy filled offering.

A Blue Christmas Service was held on December 6th. David played the piano for the service as the group met in the Parlour. The service evolved into more of a guided meditation with many in attendance sharing long term memories and were invited to light tea candles in memory of someone and the table was full of light; a very personal and meaningful gathering.

The Christmas Eve service held a full congregation with lots of music. The tradition of lighting candles with the lights dimmed low rounded the beautiful evening as all sang Silent Night.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Robin Soule, who stepped down from the Worship committee. Thank you to Robin for the gifts of her time and talent over many years with us.

In addition to this change, we welcomed David Fewtrell as a new member of the Worship committee and look forward to his contributions to this important role.

We would like to thank the following people who have contributed so much to our worship throughout the year: Mary and Ron MacMeekin for the beautiful sanctuary decor; Amanda Pulker-Mok for organizing our scripture readers; Julie Julian for keeping the usher roster running so smoothly; Eleanor Rintoul for reading the weekly Minutes for Mission; Bob Lesser for looking after our sound system, recording special services, and updating our website up; Virginia Atkinson for preparing our weekly bulletins and helping us out whenever needed; Rev. Heather Kinkaid for taking over from Rev. Mary; and to all of our church family who have helped out.

The gift of music, so key to our worship experience, is skillfully led by our wonderful Senior Choir and Music Director, Neil Milnes. Over the year, he and his choir have offered anthems that speak to all of us, enhancing the message of the sermons, giving opportunity for prayer, expressions of joy, and a chance to feel God's spirit among us. Guest instrumentalists have offered their talents as well including Glenn Morrison, Alexander Dawber, Krista Lowrey, Ian Douglas, David Fewtrell, Emmett Badger, Ellie Badger, Graham Badger, and Jamie Pulker-Mok.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Funnekotter, for the Worship Committee:

Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek, Rev. Heather Kinkaid, Margie Graff, Neil Milnes, Robin Soule, and David Fewtrell

Senior Choir Report

Choir rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for anyone that would like to join. As well as working hard on music, we have a fun time as well. Since my time at AUC, the choir has never had so many members. There was a time we had so few that we were begging for members. Well I don't have to beg anymore, however there is still room for more. So come on out and make music with us. The choir does a great job at leading the hymns every Sunday, as well as singing an anthem. We were for the first time in many years, able to perform a Christmas Cantata (without masks) which was a success. Many thanks to Margie for directing the choir, and to Ian Douglas on drums, Glenn Morrison playing trumpet, and Christa Lowry on Trumpet. And our wonderful reader Bryn Matthews. We look forward to another year of anthems that inspire and bring joy to the congregation.

Respectfully Submitted

Neil Milnes



