

Woodlawn United Church



2020



As we reflect on all that we've accomplished in the past year, despite Covid 19, we are grateful to you for your kindness and generosity of time, talent, and treasures. You are a vital part of the operations of Woodlawn United Church community. May God richly bless you and your family. We look forward to another year of being together in person, in spirit, in worship, in 2021. We hope you enjoy the following reports.

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**REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
 IN MEMORIAM 2020**



NAME	DATE OF DEATH
Nila Harvey	January 18, 2020
Albert Sparks	January 20, 2020
Frank Baker	February 2, 2020
Kelly Watson-Schutz	February 18, 2020
Carleton Tait	March 1, 2020
Nickie Armsworthy	March 4, 2020
Luann Short	March 8, 2020
Paul Dalrymple	March 17, 2020
Pearl Myers	March 21, 2020
St. Clair Bezanson	April 6, 2020
Gail Smith	April 21, 2020
Maude Welsh	April 27, 2020
Raymond Miller	May 3, 2020
Carl Armsworthy	May 13, 2020
William Parker	May 15, 2020
Jenny Johnston	May 23, 2020
Mona Tinkham	June 4, 2020
Carolyn Pettipas	July 5, 2020
Vivian Bremner	July 19, 2020
Kelly Currie (Barro)	July 30, 2020
Harold Sinclair	August 12, 2020
Severino (Nino) Venturini	August 22, 2020
Luc Lemieux	September 7, 2020
Jeannie Young	September 18, 2020
Betty Sweet	September 29, 2020
Rhoda Borden	November 11, 2020
Vivian Hill	November 16, 2020
Joyce Taylor	November 17, 2020
Randy Murray	November 20, 2020
Gloria Rutledge	November 24, 2020
Richard Osborne	December 1, 2020
Ann Connor	December 23, 2019



MINUTES FROM 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING – 11:00 a.m.

Peter Woods, co-chair of Council and chair of 2020 Annual General Meeting, with an opening prayer constituted the meeting in the name of Christ, the only true head of the church.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

The chair called for nominations of names to serve as secretary for any and all Congregational Meetings held during 2020 and before the next Annual General Meeting. **Kathy Dean nominated Bob Watt. Seconded by Adelia Holloway. There being no other nominations Bob Watt agreed to serve as secretary.** Attendance sheets were circulated. (See attachment)

MOTION TO EXTEND PRIVILEGES

The chair called for a motion to extend voting privileges. **It was moved by Agnes Howes, seconded by Maarten Kramers that voting privileges to extended to all non-members present for this meeting. Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Before calling for 'approval of the agenda' the chair suggested the following changes; 1) item 9, Business arising, be dealt with before item 8, Correspondence; 2) item 11d, Mission & Service Budget be dealt with prior to item 11c, Budget. **It was moved by Kim Mitchell, seconded by Barry Zwicker that the agenda, as modified, be approved. Motion carried.**

IN MEMORIAM

Rev Mary Lynne Whyte was invited to read the names of individuals who had participated in the life and work of Woodlawn United Church and have passed away during 2019. Rev Mary Lynne read the following names in loving memory, lit the Christ candle and called for a moment of silent prayer.

Kenneth Brown	Maddy Smart	Dorothy Cross	Florence Walker
Margaret Adamson	Ruby Clarke	Joan Patton	Irene Arbuckle
Linda Smart	Frank Thornton	Dorothy Godden	Betty Jardine
Margaret Prier	Carol Gomes	Sylvia Keddy	Ann Connor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Murdock Morrison moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, February 24th, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ian Curlett. Motion was carried
Mary Osborne moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting, June 23rd, 2019. The motion was seconded by Shirley Zwicker. Motion was carried.



BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no business items raised from either the minutes of February 24th, 2019 or the June 23rd, 2019 meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence brought before the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN REPORTS

The chair called for the acceptance of the written reports as circulated. Murdock Morrison complimented those who contributed to the written reports. Murdock requested clarification of a comment from Rev. Philip's Ministry Team Report. (*p9 – It is probably unjustified but sometimes staff wonder how much they are valued when there is lots of money for special projects, but not enough to pay salaries.*) Rev. Philip explained that his intention was to bring acknowledgement to the fact that Woodlawn has always been good at raising funds for special projects, ie accessibility, solar panels, windows, roof shingles. He acknowledged that salaries have always been paid on time but sometimes our General Fund appears to suffer. Rev Philip indicated his 'ask' was that the congregation think about where we allocate our money. Chair Peter asked for 'acceptance of the written reports, as circulated'. **Acceptance agreed upon.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) Nomination Report

Adelia Holloway, chair of Nominations presented the list of individuals who have agreed to serve as Committee chair and/or co-chairs for the year 2020.

Committee	Co-Chair	Co-Chair
Council	Kathy Dean	Peter Woods
Administration & Management	Keith Musselman	
Budget Co-ordinator		
Ministry & Personnel	Helen Dixon	
Community of Care		
Communications / AV / PR	Don Hill	Paul Whyte
Program	Brian Moors	
Stewardship	Kelly MacNeil	Fred Evans
Trustees	Dennis Dean	Jim Allen
Youth	Kerri Graham	
Sustainability (on hold)	Barry Zwicker	
Region 15 Representatives (4)	Helen Dixon	Barry Zwicker



Peter urged any who might be interested in filling any of the vacant positions to speak with Adelia. Brian Moors indicated that he and Evelyn Webber would be Woodlawn United's representatives on the board of the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank. Shannon indicated that there were also vacant positions on the committees that fall under Program; ie Worship, Outreach and Christian Development. Adelia called for nominations from the floor to fill vacancies. James Logan moved the name of Katherine Logan for the position of chair of Community Care. Katherine indicated her acceptance and Adelia thanked her for offering to serve. Adelia called for nomination three times. There being no further nominations **Adelia Holloway moved the acceptance of the report from the Nominating Committee. Seconded by Shirley Lacey. Motion was carried.**

b) Financial Statements

Ivan Richardson, representing Administration and Management, using slides and a data projector, presented the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2019. Ivan began his presentation by thanking the members of the Administration & Management Team and proceeded to present the financial position, a summary of the Trustee investments and the current statement of equity. Adelia Holloway expressed appreciation to Ivan and the team for their commitment. **Ivan moved acceptance of the Financial Statements for the year ended Dec 31st, 2019. Motion was seconded by Bev Wicks. Motion was carried.**

c) Mission & Service Budget

Mary Osborne explained that much of funds raised locally for M&S do in fact find their way back in support of local projects such as the Brunswick Street Mission and the 'Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter' at St. Matthew's United. **It was moved by Mary Osborne, seconded by Ivan Richardson that the Mission & Service target for 2020 be set at \$59,000.00. Motion was carried.**

d) 2020 Budget

Barry Zwicker, on behalf of Administration & Management presented the 2020 Budget as approved by Council. Barry began by highlighting the rationale behind some of the income budgeted items ie; envelope givings are following historical trends while revenue from rentals have shown an increase. On the Disbursement side the Salaries & Benefits, the major expense, are 'best guess' estimates as we move into a change of staff effective June 30th. It is anticipated ministerial positions, as of July 1st, will be filled on a temporary basis until the Community of Faith Profile Team finalizes its report to the Community of Faith and a Search Team is successful in identifying the personnel required to meet our ministerial needs. Property Disbursements are what the Trustees have recommended in order to keep our Woodlawn United facilities functioning and in good repair. The Committee Expenditures were arrived at by consultation with the respective teams and committees. The Conference & Presbytery Expenditures is an allocation set by General Conference. Barry indicated that Woodlawn United can expect a substantial



increase in the allocation to \$26,000 in future years. The budget forecast is \$418,600.00 revenue and a \$418,600 expenditure for the year 2020.

Barry responded to a number of questions re: charges for security and fire alarm, telephone charges, photocopier expenses and the allocation from General Council.

**Barry Zwicker moved the acceptance of the 2020 Budget as presented.
Seconded by Keith Musselman. Motioned was carried.**

e) Other

There were no other items of business brought forward.

COURTESIES

Chair Peter called on Brain Moors to extend courtesies. Brian began by extending courtesies to the many volunteers and explained that he would not mention individual names for fear of missing some. Brian thanked those that took care of the gardens, the greeters and those that serve at the welcome table, the folks that operate the sound equipment and the ushers, the minister's assistants, the chancel committee, those responsible for the hangings, the choir members, the tellers, those that ensure the pews are properly stocked and the Fellowship Hour volunteers who serve coffee and tea after worship. On behalf of the congregation Brian also extended thanks to Shelley Clee and Ruth Boutilier, the front line for folks entering our facilities and for all they do for Woodlawn United. Finally, Brian extended thanks to the ministry staff, Rev. Philip, Rev Mary Lynne and Shannon. Brian thanked the ministry staff for their ministry, their time spent with individuals, their courage and for leading Woodlawn United, the church on the busy corner by the quite pond, into the next decade. The congregation responded with a resounding applause.

ADJOURNMENT

Peter Woods, on motion for adjournment by Jack MacKinnon, adjourned the AGM at 12:45pm.

Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Robert Watt'.

J, Robert Watt

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Attendance Sheet**
- 2) Financial Statement Year Ended 2019**
- 3) Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**



ATTENDANCE RECORD

Annual General Meeting - February 23rd, 2020

Jean Adams	Fran Essex	Shirley Lacey	Carolyn Pettipas
John Allen	Fred Evans	Wendy Laforce	Shirley Pond
Lisa Allen	Jennifer Evans	Bob Lindsay	Carolyn Reid
Jim Allen	Jim Farmer	Dorothy Lindsay	Ivan Richardson
Joan Angus	Burnell Field	James Logan	Sheila Richardson
Sheila Arklie	Dave Fitch	Katherine Logan	Steve Rigden
Darlene Arseneau	Wendy Fitch	Carol Loncarevic	Jaunita Sams
Dianne Barro	Graham Fraser	Bev Lynch	Jim Scrimshaw
Terry Barro	Irma Fraser	Diane MacDonald	Linda Sinclair
Stephanie Bennett	Shirley Fraser	Eva MacDonald	Marilyn Sturgeon
Dawn Boudreau	Janet Gill	Al MacIsaac	Isobel Swan
Beatrice Boutilier	Heather Godden	Anita MacKinnon	Darrell Taylor
Ruth Boutilier	Stephanie Godden	Jack MacKinnon	Jane Twohig
Leslie Brook	Bob Goodwin	Shannon MacLean	Grant Warwick
Marie Burrows	Kerri Graham	Margo MacLeod	Sharon Warwick
Joanne Cameron	Fay Gunter	Don MacMillan	Bob Watt
Faye Charlebois	Gerry Gunter	Kelly MacNeil	Gus Webb
Dawn Coleman	John Harlow	Nell Mallett	Evelyn Webber
Pat Connell	Marie Harlow	Rhoda Marshall	Susan Webber
Janet Crichton	Susan Heatley	Emily Masse	Carol White
Ian Curlett	Helen Henderson	Jamie Masse	Laurie White
Jane Cushing	Adelia Holloway	Christine McGinnis	Sylvia Whitman
Susan Cuthbertson	Agnes Howes	Kim Mitchell	Paul Whyte
Gillian Dalziel	Glenda Howe	Brian Moors	Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte
John Dalziel	Jerry Jackson	Malcolm Morash	Bev Wicks
Dennis Dean	Eva Jenkins	Myrna Morash	Laura Jean Williamson
Kathy Dean	Gordon Joyce	Murdock Morrison	Maureen Woods
Kevin Demers	Rev. Philip Kennedy	Keith Musselman	Peter Woods
Bert Dickey	Bev Kimber	Karen Nauffts	Jeanne Young
Joan Dickey	Donna Kramers	Betty Nickerson	Sue Young
Joyce Dillman	Maarten Kramers	Ernie Nickerson	Barry Zwicker
Eileen Eisener	Sandy Kyte	Mary Osborne	Shirley Zwicker
Alan Ellis	James Lacey	Olla Ozon	



MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte



2020 was certainly an unusual year for Woodlawn. Many major things happened, the Covid-19 global pandemic, for one, and of course, it was the year Woodlawn faced the loss of two long-time Ministry Personnel, Rev. Phillip Kennedy and (Rev.) Shannon MacLean at the end of June.

January to mid-March was pretty much the same as usual for the Ministry Team. We were involved in Sunday worship, funerals, pastoral care, committee meetings, TGiT (Thank God it's Thursday), Phillip had his weekly Bible Study, Shannon had her weekly youth meetings/gatherings, and I met weekly with the Food Bank clients and volunteers, plus we each had our Regional work.

In mid-March we realized the Coronavirus had become a major global pandemic and would change the way ministry would be done for at least the rest of the year. We had our last 'normal' Sunday worship on March 15th and were told by the United Church of Canada within a few days that ministry personnel would be working from their homes until further notice. Church buildings were to be closed. Our last day in the office was Tuesday, March 17th.

From then until Shannon and Phillip left, the Ministry Team and Music Leaders, Gus Webb and Marlene Nolet, worked on '**Worship Moments**' that aired at 10 a.m. each day and were either live videos or pre-recorded premiere videos on Woodlawn's Facebook page.

Shannon, Phillip and I each took two days a week, and Gus and Marlene took one. Each week, Monday was my time slot and I chose to do a sacred harp and voice piece, Tuesday was Shannon's and she chose either a Bible study or a relevant topic to discuss, and Wednesday was Phillip's and he did a mini version of his weekly Bible Study. Thursday was always Gus and Marlene, our great music duo, and was meant to be attached to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as our group effort for 'Sunday worship'. Marlene lit the Christ Candle and spoke the Christ Candle liturgy, then Gus accompanied Marlene singing a solo connected with Sunday's theme. Gus played his piano from his home and Marlene listened to his accompaniment, then sang her part which was recorded and Gus put the two recordings together for the final 'anthem'. Friday was Shannon's Story-time, and Saturday was either myself or Phillip praying the Prayers of the People, and then Sunday would be either Phillip or myself reading the Scripture and preaching, ending with the Benediction/Blessing. If I was preaching, my husband, Paul, Co-Chair of Communications, would go into the audio files and pull out two hymns that I had chosen, then find the PowerPoint words and put them on the screen for people to watch while singing along to the Woodlawn congregation's voices from a previous year's recording. This was the only way we could think of to get the congregation, who were watching online, to sing along.



This also worked for saying The Lord's Prayer and A New Creed for it's much easier to say the words together with a group. We were trying to have some sort of normalcy in our worship, even though we were separated and worshipping in front of our own computers. Paul would spend time working on this a few days ahead of Sunday worship since my Sunday Worship Moment was a pre-recorded Facebook premiere set to air at 10 a.m. Phillip always did his live on Sunday mornings which is why there were no hymns, until Phillip asked Paul to have a couple of recorded hymns in a separate recording on our Facebook page for Easter worship. The weeks continued like this until Phillip, Shannon and Marlene left at the end of June. It was then up to Gus, with help from his wife, Lisa, and Katie Logan, Youth Coordinator, and myself to present the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Worship Moments until we were allowed to open up the church building and livestream with a small number of people in the sanctuary. My sincere thanks to all involved in our Worship Moments, and to our Tech Team for their excellent work in livestreaming our services.

Prior to opening the building, a team put together the Covid-19 protocols, so when our building could open, we would have rules and signs in place. In mid-September, once we were allowed to have some in-person worship services, another team implemented the protocols for worship, ushers were found, and in-person worship began on Sunday, September 20th. Even though we were allowed, according to Nova Scotia Health Authorities, to have up to 100 in our sanctuary, socially distanced, we have had usually between 20 and 50 people, depending on the occasion. On our Anniversary Sunday at the end of October, which was also Confirmation Sunday (which should have happened at Easter but was postponed) we had about 80 in the sanctuary. It was an exciting Sunday as we had 7 Confirmands plus Phillip and Shannon who had come back to confirm them. This is because Phillip and Shannon were their teachers in the winter/spring of 2020.

The Pastoral Care Team (11 people) met in January to update each other on our various pastoral care visitations (home and hospital), then organized another annual "Tea for Seniors" which was held on Monday, February 24th. The Pastoral Care Team provided homemade goodies, serving them along with tea/coffee, and I played my harp and sang. It was a good opportunity for all the Pastoral Care Team to circulate, including myself, around the tables to greet and chat with everyone present. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Pastoral Care Team for their dedication to Woodlawn through this unique and very special caring ministry. Unfortunately, Vivian Hill had to step away from this group early on in the year due to her terminal illness, and now that's she's passed, we miss her dearly. Don Hill has also had to step away for health reasons, but we hope he will return when he is ready. Jerry Jackson has joined our Team and we welcome him with open arms, but of course, 6 feet away. The Team keeps in touch by phone, email, or Zoom meetings. Since there have been no in-person visits allowed, the Team has basically been calling the people assigned to them, and perhaps, sending a card during special occasions, such as Christmas. We continue to have 11 people, but could always use more if there is an interest. Anyone is most welcome to join our Team.



Worship services at **Oakwood Terrace and Ocean View Manor** have had to stop due to Covid-19. We look forward to resuming those services and connecting in person with our Woodlawn residents when the coronavirus will allow.

Spending time each Thursday morning over at the Heritage Centre talking to **Food Bank** participants and volunteers is a great way to do community pastoral care. It is a form of pastoral outreach for Woodlawn that extends beyond our own congregation. When the Dun-Gen is open again, I look forward to connecting with the people who run that each week, as well. When Covid first shut everything down, a few Woodlawn volunteers and volunteers from other churches were allowed to look after the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank in our Heritage Centre, but I did not go until restrictions were eased in our area. Now I am back to connecting with everyone on Thursday mornings and feel blessed to be a part of this special ministry. Checking in with people each week is a great way to have some very meaningful conversations, and I find it very uplifting.

The **Funeral Ministry** at Woodlawn, another amazing pastoral ministry, continues, but in a restricted manner. Whenever we have a funeral at Woodlawn, we adhere to Covid protocols, however, the restrictions have impacted this ministry making it much more difficult for our two Funeral Liaisons and their volunteers. We hope, once Covid is a thing of the past, our Funeral Ministry will continue as before. But even so, it's a wonderful ministry that cares for Woodlawn families during the days of preparation for a funeral and the funeral worship itself. I would like to thank Sheila Richardson and Nell Mallett, our two Funeral Liaisons, for their awesome volunteer work in this regard, and for their dedication to this ministry. I would also like to thank Gus for his musical contributions to our many funerals, Shelley and Ruth for their duties connected to this ministry, as well as the funeral coordinators and people who donated food prior to Covid-19. At present, we are still not allowed to have receptions.

As well, Carol White and Kim Mitchell look after our **Funeral Grief Booklet Ministry** and I'd like to thank them for making sure Woodlawn people receive the grief booklets, if they so desire them, during their time of grief. Kim and Carol also make pastoral phone calls to grieving people to check up on them. Their part in this ministry is very much appreciated. For many years, Vivian Hill has overseen the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. Just before Vivian's passing, she handed over the 'reins' to Nancy Allen. I am very thankful for Vivian Hill who began this ministry at Woodlawn years ago, and I'm thankful for Nancy who has decided to continue Vivian's legacy by overseeing this wonderful ministry. There are many Woodlawn people who knit/crochet prayer shawls as they pray for the recipient. After they are finished, the prayer shawls are usually blessed in a worship service by myself, but since Covid, they have been blessed, either one at a time, or on-line during a Worship Moment, and once, at Vivian and Don's home, outside, socially distanced, this past summer. When enough shawls have been collected, I will incorporate a blessing of the prayer shawls into a livestreamed worship service. Thank you to all our volunteers who create prayer shawls. They are very much appreciated by the recipients and their families. As well, 10 prayer



shawls were mailed to a United Church in Portapique, NS, after the 21 murders occurred this past spring. They were very appreciative.

I proposed a **Pastoral Phone Ministry** in the fall of 2020, and, with Ralph Sams help, it was implemented in January 2021. More on this ministry in the next annual report. My thanks to Ralph for taking charge of this very important ministry and to all the volunteers who make phone calls to our Woodlawn family.

Region work consisted of my being a Pastoral Charge Supervisor from January to the end of June when Region found someone else to take over for me as Phillip and Shannon had left Woodlawn at that time and my responsibilities had increased. I was also on the Association of Ministers steering committee, but stepped back from that role after Phillip and Shannon left. I will resume that role when we have another full-time minister in place.

My thanks to the many lay people who have done amazing work this past year chairing committees, working on committees, helping me with worship (special thanks to Ralph Sams, Jerry Jackson, Jim Farmer, and Rev. Roland Murray for leading worship and preaching last fall into the Advent and Christmas season), working in outreach, especially at Christmas, Food Bank volunteers, Pastoral Care volunteers, choir members (before Covid-19) and those who participate on Council, as well as those who keep our sanctuary looking beautiful with seasonal décor and banners. The church runs smoothly because there are so many excellent volunteers and I'd like to thank you for your dedication and efforts in everything you do. Covid-19 has made everything harder, but we have managed to find other ways to do ministry. We've adapted very well, though we are still working on choral singers participation.

Thank you to the wonderful staff here at Woodlawn. It is a privilege and an honour to work with you in your various roles to make Woodlawn a wonderful mission-and-ministry-oriented church. Thank you Shelley, Ruth, Gus, and Katie.

Working with Shannon and Phillip was awesome up until they left at the end of June, and now I look forward to working in team ministry with Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner.

Thanks be to God for Woodlawn United Church and the mission and ministry that take place through this wonderful Community of Faith. May God bless your journey into the future.

Submitted by Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte



CO-CHAIRS OF COUNCIL REPORT

COFP Report

The Community of Faith Profile completed work on the COFP report and presented a draft version to Council in October which was approved in November. This was the culmination of more than a years' worth of work and was accepted with thanks to the team led by Barry Zwicker. Earlier in the year, Rev Linda Yates (Region 15 representative) who had been working with our COFP team sent Council a letter recommending that Woodlawn needed three years of Intentional Interim Ministry and that the COFP committee could be disbanded. Through various letters back and forth with the region and a great deal of soul searching, disappointment and some disagreement, council was able, with the COFP team leading the way, to come to an agreement with Region 15 to have a Transitional Minister for 12 to 18 months who would work on specific goals prior to our search for permanent staff.

Transitional Minister

Documents for a job description and goals during the time of transition were created and forwarded to the congregation late in the year for review, questions and ultimately to seek approval by council in early 2021. The next steps will be to form a Transition team that will help to guide the transition period working towards fulfilling the stated goals. This team will be appointed by Council and Region15 early in 2021.

Covid-19 Response

Council decided to suspend in-person Sunday services and Church building use in general in March due to the rapid evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic. The ministers and music staff came up with a plan to begin on-line worship moments with different staff being responsible for content for each day of the week. These moments were initially being created on staff cell phones at home. Phillip, Mary Lynne and Shannon began pastoral phone calls to 200 members for whom we had no email address to ensure they were managing.

As we began recording and then livestreaming from the church it was decided to build a more permanent and robust livestreaming setup in the tech booth (rather than use personal cell phones). A consultant was hired, the equipment purchased, installed and training was provided to the tech team. Livestreaming on Facebook sees approximately 50 – 60 people watching live and about 400 views within a few days. Services are also uploaded to YouTube shortly after being live.

In June, a reopening committee began working on a terms of reference. This document was to contain general guidelines (such as from the Region or the NS Health department) that other committees could use as a basis for their own specific reopening plans. Re-entry Terms of reference, plans for staff return to offices and return to Sanctuary use was presented to Council and accepted. A team composed of all involved committees met in July



to discuss resuming in-person Sunday services. Our first in-person Sunday service was Sept 20th.

Ministerial Staff

After 10 plus years in residence at Woodlawn, both Rev Phillip and Shannon moved on to other pastures. A Covid style drive by send-off was held in June. The send-off was well attended and a few tears were shed but many wonderful memories were shared and new ones created. Katie Logan was welcomed into her new role as Youth Coordinator in July. Rev Mary Lynne served as the only minister for the balance of the year and was certainly kept busy. In the fall, Ralph Sams, Jerry Jackson, Jim Farmer and Rev Roland Murray helped to ease the pressure by leading several services.

Council approved by motion the Search Committee Recommendation that Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner be offered employment, beginning February 1st, 2021 for, initially, a three month/20 hour per week contract. His addition would assist Rev Mary Lynne and bridge the gap until a Transition Minister was hired. Rev Dale is eligible to apply for the transition minister and for a permanent position following that as is Rev Mary Lynne.

Difficult Year

2020 was a year of unprecedented pressure on all of us. People lost jobs, businesses, employees, friends and family members. At Woodlawn the pressure of the pandemic restrictions meant that we could not respond as was our way in difficult times with hugs, meals together and socializing. We were grieving the loss of 2 long time staff members, along with the pressure to both keep things together and try to plan for filling the roles that were now vacant. Region 15 indicated that we needed an Intentional interim minister which some did not agree with. In part due to all of these pressures, we had several members of council resign. As a result, since September, committee chairs served as rotating chairs of council. The congregation, I'm sure, will agree that a thank you is owed to all who served on Council, to staff members and other volunteers during this very difficult year.

Submitted for all rotating Chairs' of Council
Paul Whyte



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Friends of Accessibility:

What a difference a year makes, 2019 was our most successful fund raising year ever and we hoped to top that in 2020. Alas, everything came to a screeching halt in early March when the dark cloud of covid-19 descended upon us. Fortunately we managed to run four chowders and two concerts before we shut down. While the Funtastics concert on February 2nd was a huge success, attendance at the Evans & Doherty concert on March 7 was adversely affected by the approaching pandemic. The January Country Classis show was cancelled due to weather, February ran and then we shut down. From these 7 events we cleared \$11,332.00 and were well on our way to another record year. We explored running a takeout only chowder a few times but each time there was a surge in covid-19 cases and we decided the risk was too great.

Other activities:

The Lawtons program continues to be an important part of our fund raising effort. On Nov. 6th we attempted our first Live Stream concert with Terry Kelly. While not a great financial success it was a great concert and a wonderful learning experience for our tech crew. Terry and Tony are great to work with, generous to a fault and all round wonderful to be around. Terry arrived for practice and sound check that afternoon with a rented piano which he had not previously played. I, who cannot carry a tune in a bucket, found myself assisting Terry in learning where the various buttons were. I was amazed at his ability to commit these to memory. The buttons on his piano are raised, these were flat but lighted. The lighted buttons were not much use to Terry. Just as we were wrapping up sound check a noise developed somewhere in the system. With all hands offering advice for more than 30 minutes Terry suddenly figured it out, disabled the offending button on his mixer and we were good to go.

Our two priority items for 2020 were replacing the folding doors and improving the lighting in Fellowship Hall. Led lights were installed, sections were added and the lighting is much improved. The new folding doors were ordered and arrived in April. We still need to remove a couple of sections of the old doors and install some finish boards. Meantime the new doors are useable and appear to be a huge improvement in ease of use, storage etc. As we look to 2021 our prayer is that the vaccines will be effective, that life will return to somewhere near normal and we can once again provide food, entertainment and fellowship.

Heartfelt thanks from all of us on the Accessibility Committee for your ongoing support of this project.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams, Chair of Accessibility / Friends of Accessibility*



ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT (A&M)

The Administration & Management Committee has a specific mandate associated with the finances of the congregation. While A&M is not responsible for developing and carrying out our stewardship program, we work with the Stewardship Team and Ministry & Personnel.

Areas of responsibility:

- 1) Payroll management. Kathy Hawkins has the vital task of managing the payroll system for all staff and reports regularly to the A&M team.
- 2) Accountant/Budget Officer. Ivan Richardson is our accountant and maintains financial records in accordance with UCC policy and CRA regulations. Ivan is assisted by Carol McKnight whose efforts are appreciated. They were busy handling day to day reimbursements and cheque preparation. They provide monthly statements and coordinate any financial reviews. Bev Wicks and Joan Mikkelsen continue to do our miscellaneous deposits.
- 3) Records Clerk & PAR coordinator. Joan Mikkelsen maintains your personal information and is the sole person to record offerings and issue annual income tax receipts. In this capacity, she also manages the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) system. Currently 158 households are using PAR as their primary means of giving to the church.
- 4) Rentals. Bev Wicks and Shelley Clee, our office administrator, manage our rentals for the church facilities. Lead by Shelley they handle promotion of our rental spaces, agreements and compliance.
- 5) Tellers. Keith Musselman ensures we have two tellers to receive, process, and deposit weekly offerings. Most teller duties this year have been carried out by Bev and Joan, who took the task of doing deposits bimonthly when necessary, to restrict personal contact amongst our group of volunteer tellers. Thank you, Bev and Joan.
- 6) Council representation. As the chair, Keith Musselman attended WUC council meetings, brought forward our recommendations and reported back to A&M.
- 7) Ministerial Staff. Reverend Mary Lynne Whyte is the representative on the A&M Committee. We thank her for her input, knowledge and views during our meetings.
- 8) Trustees. Jim Allen is the representative for the WUC Trustees. His participation and input at A&M meetings is appreciated. Malcolm Morash stepped down as the long standing Trustee representative and we want to thank and acknowledge his many years of contribution to WUC.

2020 was a busy year for A&M due to the affects of Covid-19. The necessary restrictions made several changes to our way of operating and finances. Our financial statements showed we received approximately 1/3 of our normal rental income.

Kathy and Ivan were heavily involved administering Federal financial aid programs. Jim Allen and the trustees implemented cost saving measures early during closures and restrictions of the church. Our financial statement for 2020 showed several changes, some



known, others due to Covid-19 restrictions. Rev. Kennedy's and Rev. MacLean's planned departure from WUC resulted in reduced staffing costs however, rental cancellations reduced income. Federal assistance programs provided replacement income and local meetings were cancelled so some budgets were not spent. Families on PAR continued to support WUC and remained a steady source of operating capital. In short, at the end of 2020 we finished in a modest surplus situation. We are not anticipating a surplus this year and it's reflected in the proposed 2021 budget.

Ivan and Joan investigated and implemented policy and procedures for e-transfers. I thank them for their persistence in arranging this with our bank. PAR is still the preferred method for donations as it's more efficient and less complicated. In future, WUC will have financial reviews conducted by members of the congregation with a financial background. This falls within UCC guidelines.

My thanks to all members of A&M for their dedication to the work of our church and the vital tasks they do to ensure our missions and goals.

Respectively Submitted
Keith Musselman, Chair A&M Committee

Rental Notes (Addendum to A&M Report)

2020 looked very different for rentals. Due to Covid 19 and the shut down of rental accommodations, our rental revenue was lower than anticipated, with an end of year total of \$10,810, down from \$30,980 the previous year. This includes both long term and one time rentals. While we did have requests for space throughout 2020 (for the late 2020/21 year), Covid 19's grasp on gathering limits just were not able to make those happen. There continues to be a shortage of rental space in the HRM (and specifically Dartmouth), especially for evening hour requests by individual instruction based groups (Zumba, yoga, dance, etc).

We are now seeing a return to Woodlawn by some of our groups, but gathering limits continue to restrict numbers for larger groups. We have welcomed a new group to Woodlawn United, McKenna's Driving School.

Submitted by Shelley Clee, Office Administrator



COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ("C/PR")

To say 2020 was a strange year would certainly be an understatement! We began the year with 2 brand new systems installed to allow individuals with hearing restrictions to be better able to hear the services in the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Then COVID-19 came along and essentially shut these two spaces down for most of the year.

Our challenge in 2020 then became how to provide a meaningful worship experience to the congregation when people were not allowed to gather in the building. Initially the ministerial team decided to go virtual (live streaming and pre-recorded video messages) by using cell phones! This worked OK when the messages were being recorded from home. When we were able to make use of the sanctuary (still without the congregation) however, we were faced with a number of problems. We were unable to get very good sound from instruments and the microphones into the cell phones. Additionally, the phones could heat up, fail and on more than one occasion, flip the picture so that the cameraman was on rather than the minister! We resolved the sound problem by feeding the soundboard output into the phone, but this was still an unreliable (and echo-ey) system. On top of all this, these early messages were pre-recorded and required many hours of post-production work to edit and string them together. More time needed to be spent to allow us to find and edit the lovely recording of the congregation singing hymns each week (by pulling these out of our service audio recordings from years gone by).

We eventually sought the knowledge of a consultant to advise us what equipment to purchase and how to set it all up so that we could have a more professional and robust streamed service.

We purchased equipment that would allow us to capture video and audio (a new camcorder), revive our old camcorder (purchase of a new battery), tie in sound from the soundboard and be able to switch between cameras and the PowerPoint slides (a device called a switcher). To send it to the internet we have a video encoder that converts our video to something that the internet can understand and directs the signal to our Facebook page. Following the service the Facebook video gets manually uploaded to our YouTube page. Easy right?!!

Our dedicated Communications team had a number of challenges this year. Don Hill our amazing leader for so long had to step back for health reasons, Stewart Sampson decided not to return and Mary Kate Evans could not return due to school work load. This left us down a couple people and the new system requires three people to operate vs two in the old days. June Rigden jumped in to assist early in the year and towards the end of the year we were happy to welcome Barry Zwicker to the team!

We had to overcome a steep learning curve to operate the live video streaming equipment and we also had to resolve a number of other problems: occasional failure of both computers (one is used for audio recording and the other is used for PowerPoint),



problems with the wireless microphones making cracking noises for no apparent reason, loud buzzing sound coming from the PowerPoint machine and failure of the “jack” that is used to connect the PowerPoint computer to the soundboard (requiring a new sound card). Phew! What a year. Without our technical problem solvers, Peter Woods and Steve Rigden, who did the lion’s share of problem solving between them, the services may not have gone out. Thank you both very much!

Looking forward to 2021, we will likely have to do repairs as needed and begin to plan for some eventual equipment replacement. Both computers will likely need to be replaced over the next year or two. And we will need to evaluate our soundboard at some point soon to determine how much longer it will do the job.

Thank you to Diane Avery who is stepping down as our webmaster after many years of looking after our site and to Christine McGinnis who was looking after our Facebook page. A big thank you to the Communications team for all their hard work in 2020!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Whyte, Chair of Communications Team

Audio (A): Bev Lynch, Murdock Morrison

Live Stream: Peter Woods (A, PPTC), Steve (A) and June Rigden (A, PPTC) Barry Zwicker (A), Paul Whyte (A)

PowerPoint Creation (PPTC): Jennifer Evans

PowerPoint Presenters (PPTP): Peter, June, Bev and Paul run the PowerPoint presentation on Sundays



COMMUNITY OF CARE

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-8)

Here in Woodlawn United Church, we are blessed to have so many people who willingly share their gifts of preaching, teaching, reading, providing musical and technical support in worship, ushering, greeting, welcoming, leading in small groups, tending to finances and facilities and caring for our people of all ages, while supporting one another at all times. Yes, we are truly blessed!

One small group consists of caring women who have taken their God-given gifts of knitting and crocheting and turned it into a Ministry of Care and Compassion for those in need of comfort and solace during times of illness, grief, loneliness and other difficulties. They have found it a privilege to use something they love to do to bless those who receive the beautiful works of their hands. Once they are completed, usually at home, the Prayer Shawls that they have created are taken to the church where they are blessed at a worship service before being presented to various people. Even in these strange global pandemic times when Covid-19 has frightened many people into immobility, the prayer shawl ministry has continued, non-stop, being needed more than ever. What a blessing the prayer shawls and the creators themselves have been over this past year.

Throughout the years of this ministry, prayer Shawls have also been given to children at Baptisms and Blessings, to Ministry Students, and to Woodlawn students graduating from High School as a symbol of God's presence with them on their life's journey. Prayer Shawls go out not only to congregational members, but to anyone in our community and beyond who is in need of loving care. It is our hope that all who receive them will feel the love of God through the prayers that are knitted/crocheted into each shawl, providing the strength and encouragement that is needed to face any obstacles that they may face in their lives. We owe a debt of gratitude to these amazing women for their countless hours spent in keeping this ministry alive and well. Thank you to all! And we also thank Woodlawn's Ministry Team for their on-going support, along with others in the congregation, in presenting these beautiful shawls to people in need. We have been told by many that these prayer shawls fulfil a deep need for many individuals and their families. In fact, after the horrible 21 murders in Nova Scotia last spring, we sensed that the Portapique area might benefit from our ministry so we sent 10 prayer shawls, including some for children, to a sister church in the area who made sure several families received them. They were received with much gratitude.



Thank you as well to those of you who have contributed by making financial donations to the Prayer Shawl Ministry through your offerings to the church. These are most welcome so that we have a ready supply of yarn to complete our projects.



The wonderful woman who began this ministry many years ago was our beloved Vivian Hill who passed away last fall. We will always be indebted to her for her compassion and insight that saw a need for compassionate care through gifted artisans at Woodlawn and in our community. Last summer, Vivian was pleased to hand over the coordination of this ministry to someone who eagerly volunteered for the job; Nancy Allen. Thank you, Nancy, for stepping in to oversee this important ministry in Vivian's name.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, or if you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please call Nancy Allen at 902-435-5567, or email her at nancyallen5@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made for prayer shawl deliveries.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte on behalf of
Nancy Allen, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator.*

Pastoral Care

Caring for one another is what pastoral care is all about. We show this in different ways. Our compassion and concern is shown through our eyes when we make eye contact. It's shown through our listening presence, and if the opportunity arises, through our gentle words. When clergy or lay volunteers visit people in hospitals or homes, we bring our loving concern and the loving concern and prayers of Woodlawn into their lives at that particular moment. They then realize they're unconditionally loved and remembered by their church family, just as Jesus unconditionally loves and remembers each one of us. It's a loving and caring ministry that follows the Way of Jesus, and it can raise someone's spirits and give them comfort and hope.

Hospital Pastoral Care Unit:

Woodlawn's Ministry Team provides crisis care as required, in home, hospital, or church office. As well, the United Church of Canada patient list at Dartmouth General Hospital was checked from January to mid-March each week by clergy and/or members of the Hospital Pastoral Care Visitation Unit looking for names of Woodlawn-connected folk. This list covers all hospitals in the Dartmouth/Halifax area. However, since Covid-19 began in our area last March, the hospitals will not allow us to do this task, so we've been relying on family members of people taken into hospital to let the office know so ministers and pastoral care team hospital visitors can contact the person in hospital by phone for a short chat and prayer. We have not been allowed to go in person during this global pandemic.



However, clergy have been allowed, at various times, to visit in person if someone has been dying. The clergy must be asked by the person who is dying, or their family member, a nurse on the unit, or the hospital chaplain. There are strict Covid protocol procedures to follow. Clergy try very hard to make sure no one is missed during their hospital stay, but when a person is in hospital for a short stay, especially if the office has not been notified, we may miss the opportunity to contact them.

During an in-person visit, we bring a friendly face, as well as greetings and concern from Woodlawn. We also ask permission to put the patient's name in our bulletin. In the past, in order to help them feel connected to their church family, we have tried to bring a recent bulletin or newsletter. We ask each patient if they would like us to pray and are pleased to pray aloud for a few moments. But we always respect people's wishes if someone does not feel the need for prayer. Later, our lay hospital visitors report back to the other unit members, clergy staff, and the Office. This past year, two hospital pastoral care team visitors have had to step down. With Vivian Hill's terminal illness throughout all of last year leading to her death, we have missed her participation in this important ministry. Her compassionate and sensitive visits with prayer were always much appreciated. As well, with Don Hill's health issues and his wife's illness and death, we have missed Don's participation in this much needed and important ministry. His compassionate and caring visits were always well received and appreciated. When Don is ready to return, we will welcome him with open arms. In their place, Jerry Jackson has graciously stepped in to cover hospital visits. We thank Jerry for the offering of his gifts in this area.

Home Visitation Unit:

We try to keep current lists of people that can't easily leave their homes or place of residence, but would appreciate notification from a close relative to keep us informed in case we have missed someone. In pre-Covid times, our lay visitors would visit our shut-ins at least once in a six week period bringing worship service bulletins, a friendly face, a listening ear, prayer, and sometimes, a lovely "Thinking of You" card created by Shelley Clee, one of our Office Administrators. Occasionally, the Ministry Team has brought Home Communion to those who cannot get out to church, especially if it's requested. We are pleased to do this. However, during Covid, we have not been visiting in person, unless it has been urgently requested by the person, and then strict Covid protocols are maintained. Mainly, we have been phoning our people for a short visit and to see if they require anything from their church family.

Woodlawn currently has 476 households. At this point, we only have 10 lay pastoral care people on our team, and two are unavailable at this time. We definitely need more people to help us care for our shut-ins and people in hospitals. Please, carefully consider joining us if you have any interest in this type of ministry. And if you are interested, please contact Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte by calling the church office at 902-434-8302 or by e-mailing (marylynne.whyte@woodlawnunited.ca) and a meeting will be arranged to discuss your involvement in this very important ministry. Thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte



Kindred Spirits:

Kindred Spirits meets the second Wednesday of each month in Room B, at 11:30 am. We have a short program followed by tea and a light lunch. This group is a great way to stay connected and share what's going on in each of our lives. Our focus is to provide a safe, social atmosphere for those of us who have lost our spouses and would like to connect with and engage with others in the same or similar circumstances. Widows of any age or stage are welcome to join in anytime. The group met in February of 2020, but not again throughout 2020 due to Covid 19.

Submitted by Bea Boutilier

Fellowship

Fellowship happens in the church hall after the Sunday service. Each week a couple of volunteers prepare the coffee, tea, juice and treats from Tim Hortons. They serve it and clean up afterwards. All money earned from this goes back to the church after the coffee etc. are paid for.

Due to the church closure when the Covid 19 pandemic arrived we only had about 2 months of Fellowship this year. Hopefully we can get back to this gathering time soon as the many in the congregation look forward to chatting with their friends at this time. Thank you to all the kind folks who help out with Fellowship time. I am looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Submitted by Shirley Zwicker

Statistics 2019

Our Congregational Roll at year end (2020) stood at 476 households and 1038 individuals under pastoral care. During the year (2020), 2 individuals were added to our Congregational Roll and 47 were deleted for various reasons (relocated, deceased, unable to locate).

During the year (2020) 8 individuals were added to our Historical Roll (1 by transfers in / re-instated, and 7 by Profession of Faith), and 15 individuals were removed from the Historical Roll (none transferred out, and 15 deceased).

Submitted by Joan Mikkelsen, Records Clerk

Widowers Group

Widowers Group meetings were suspended due to Covid-19 concerns. It is the hope of the group to get started again as soon as precautions are no longer required.

Submitted by Keith Musselman



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Well! 2020 was a year like most of us have never seen before. The year arrived like most years, pretty uneventful, however by mid February we were hearing a lot about a virus from China called COVID-19. In mid March the virus was well established in North America. We here in Nova Scotia were in lock down mode - staying the blazes home.

Churches were closed which meant we were unable to have in-person worship. Rev. Phillip Kennedy, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte and Shannon MacLean did a wonderful job bringing us virtual worship. Ministry & Personnel (M&P) did weekly check in calls with the ministry staff via Zoom.

The latter part of June, Council was advised that Region 15 was recommending Interim Ministry for a period of time. There were many questions. It is important to understand that having Ministry personnel who have been with us for ten or more years is quite common for Churches to have Interim Ministry to help move forward.

It was with great sadness that we gave a fond farewell to Rev. Phillip Kennedy and Shannon MacLean. A drive by farewell was organized and held outside the church with all Public Health Guidelines being followed. It was a great success with many people in their cars in the parking lot honking their horns and waving good bye.

We were pleased to have Katie Logan our Youth Co-ordinator join Woodlawn in July. Katie has done an excellent job supporting and creating programs for the children and youth at Woodlawn.

Programming struggled to find supply Ministry to provide relief for Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte. However, in August with the thoughtfulness of Jerry Jackson and Ralph Sams and a few supply Ministers we were able to find relief in August and September.

In September M&P worked with the Re-entry Committee to develop guidelines that would enable the staff to re-enter the Church. This also would enable Woodlawn to resume in-person worship with Public Health Guidelines. At this time Woodlawn also initiated live streaming of our weekly worship services.

In September M&P began working with Programming to find some part time Ministry help. This search resulted in two very qualified candidates applying. The Search Committee interviewed and selected Rev Dr. Dale Skinner as the successful candidate. Council approved the recommendation in November to hire Rev. Skinner effective February 1, 2021.

In late November, wave two of the Pandemic was happening and HRM was in shut down mode once again. In-person service within the Church was closed with live streaming of



our weekly worship continuing. Things loosened up a bit just before Christmas allowing the church to have an in-person service on Christmas Eve.

Many thanks to both Jerry Jackson and Ralph Sams for the great job they did filling in for some of the weekly Worships. Thankfully, Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner is now with us, which will now help us to move forward. With Interim Ministry beginning in the near future, we look forward to rebuilding a new and faithful Woodlawn United Church.

We would like to give a huge thank you to all staff and also the members of M&P for their ongoing commitment. Everyone participated in ensuring Woodlawn could continue to be at its best in spite of the ongoing challenges with Covid 19.

*Submitted by: Helen Dixon & Cathy Kay
Co-Chairs, Ministry & Personnel*

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Some would say the best view of 2020 is in the rear view mirror, however, as with most difficult times, lessons and new skills were learned as programs continued within our church. This was due to a strong commitment by each group to forge ahead and achieve their goal in spite of Covid-19. The full reports of The Worship, Outreach and the CD Teams are in the pages of this report. Please review them to see what was accomplished by these folks.

Although people could not meet in person after March, with the help of the Communication Committee, specifically Peter Woods, each group was able to continue to meet on Zoom. For most of us this was a new skill learned as we had not used this platform in the past. Thank you Peter for your time and patience in setting up the program and leading us through the learning process.

A major part of the program committee's responsibility is to find pulpit supply and pastoral care supply when staff is on vacation or study leave. With two thirds of our ministry team accepting pastoral calls to other congregations in July, this work was a major focus of Program in 2020. I want to thank Rev. Roland Murray, Jerry Jackson, Jim Farmer and Ralph Sams for their support and leadership conducting Sunday services giving Mary Lynne a much deserved break. Their ministry was further complicated by having the service recorded and live streamed. All rose above this challenge. We are blessed to have such faithful people in our congregation.

When Emergency Pastoral Care needs arose, Rev. Holly Edsall, Rev. Linda MacCulloch and Jerry Jackson offered their help and filled the void. I thank them for their gift of ministry and caring of our congregants while staff was away.



I would like to thank all staff for their support, care and flexibility over the last year that helped our programs be successful in what was a challenging time for all. It is amazing what was accomplished of God's work in this place, in this year, in spite of the pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted by Brian Moors

Couples Club

We only had two events this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic forcing us not to socialize in groups. On January 31 we had our annual Bingo night at Oakwood Terrace This is always a popular event with the residents as well as our club members. After we play the Bingo games and make sure everyone has some prizes, we serve them a lunch of sweet breads and a drink of juice. Following that we went to Pilots Pub for a delicious meal.

On February 28 we went to Port Wallis United Church dinner theatre that was very entertaining. Hopefully we can get back together in the fall for more social programs.

We didn't have any fundraisers this year but the sale of second hand books from our book room continues to bring in funds. We welcome you to browse at your convenience.

This year we were saddened by the passing of Vivian Hill who was a long time member of Couples club. We will miss her smile and willingness to help out with whatever she could.

Submitted by Shirley Zwicker

Coffee House

Coffee House, an important activity for those it serves, was able to hold events during the months of January and February 2020. From March onward, we were impacted by Covid-19, as were most groups. Coffee House made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the year's activities.

Submitted by Donna Jackson & Brenda Blair

1st Woodlawn Scout Group Committee

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 1st Woodlawn Scout Group's 40 youth participants and 30 Scouters (volunteers) still see silver linings. When we face challenges, they hit us on many levels. We've learned that 'we cannot walk alone' and to help others and one another. Our wonderful Scouters have been and continue to be intentional in their efforts to develop alternative program routines and skills as we go forward. We are very proud of our Scouters who have been able to shine brighter in crisis.

We also continue to offer quality programs in the Beaver (ages 5-7yrs), Cub (8-10yrs), Scout (11-14yrs) and Venturer (15-17yrs) Sections. Please note that we welcome all inquiries about our program and are always happy to take on new members and volunteers through-out the year.

*On behalf of the Youth and Scouters of 1st Woodlawn Scout Group,
George Mawko, Group Commissioner*



Girl Guides

The January to December 2020 guiding year has been a very busy and stressful year. Girl Guides of Canada Brookhouse District consists of 12 units which meet at Iona Presbyterian Church and both buildings at the Woodlawn United Church.

There are 21 leaders and girls meeting at Woodlawn weekly. The units that meet at the Woodlawn brick church are 1 Brownie Unit, 1 Guide Unit and 2 Pathfinder units. On Wednesday night the Brownie unit and the Girl Guide unit share the facilities.

Unfortunately, this means that they need to share the space separately and are unable to bridge together because of the Girl Guide Covid restrictions. The other Girl Guide unit meets on Thursday night. The groups that meet at the Heritage church are the Pathfinder Units. The restrictions have made it difficult to meet in person and some units have opted at various points to go virtual or use various other spaces that accommodate them.

Over the past 2020 guiding year, the leaders have been working very hard to provide their units' with the Girl First Guiding Program. The girls are learning and developing their camping skills, taking part in many community service projects, completing challenges and participating in doing many fun fulfilled crafts, games and program activities. Here is an update of some of the activities that each branch has been working on throughout the 2020 calendar year.

The Brownie unit embarked on many exciting learning adventures by completing as a group most of the Girls First program.

The Girl Guide unit worked hard at the Girls First Program to their units.

The Pathfinder units have also been very busy on their Girls First Program.

Usually these groups would be doing various volunteer and camping projects throughout the year. Unfortunately, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, most units were told to go virtual with some opting to end for the rest of the 2019-2020 year. The autumn 2020 year has been difficult to navigate at well. At this moment, no one in the Girl Guide Association is allowed to take part in camps, overnight activities or special outings. We are hoping the 2021 year will be a lot better.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Woodlawn United Church for providing the four branches of guiding a place for the girls to learn, develop and have fun. Without your generous support, we would not be able to provide this opportunity to our girls. We greatly appreciate all you do for the guiding movement.

*Submitted by: Deanna Gillespie Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada,
Brookhouse District Commissioner*



Outreach Committee

Our Mission Statement is to provide an opportunity to support people who are less fortunate in a God centered way. With the support of the congregation, Outreach puts Christian Faith into action through the programs we support. This year due to COVID 19 the Outreach Committee had to make several difficult decisions when we started to plan the 2020 White Gift program in May with the church closed and no reopening date in sight.

Thanks to the help and support from the congregation, Feed Nova Scotia, Sobeys, Dave's, and several UCW groups we are happy to report another successful White Gift program here at Woodlawn.

This year 54 people from 16 families between the ages new born to 65 plus received the following gifts: two bags of groceries, one bag of fruit and vegetables, \$25.00 Sobeys Gift Card for a turkey or other protein, and a \$40.00 Walmart Gift Card.

The teen youth homes Edward House, Brockwell House and Welcome Home Housing for men and women received a total of 55 gift bags and shoeboxes.

A 150 plus pairs of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves were distributed to the 16 families and 3 local elementary schools. The Sleeping Children around the World program received \$630.00 From 9 families.

During 2020, we supported the following programs with donations of money the Outreach Committee received from the Woodlawn Kiwanis Club.

1. Brunswick Street Mission,
2. Youth Coffee Club House,
3. Phoenix Food for Youth,
4. Metro Community Living,
5. Margaret's House,
6. Boys and Girls Club,
7. Canadian Mental Health (HRM Chapter)

Members of Outreach report on meetings for Dartmouth Community Health Board, Margaret's House, Phoenix House and East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank Board.

The Outreach Committee are dedicated congregation members who are aware of the need to seek social justice for our neighbours who struggle to live in today's world, doing what they can to follow Jesus' way to show compassion, understanding and love. We will continue to look for ways to serve those in need in our community for 2021.

*Respectfully submitted by Karen Nauffts and Laurie White,
Co-Chairs of Outreach Committee*



East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank

Hi my name is Shaureen Taweel. I am from St. Luke's Anglican Church and took on coordinating the EDCFB in Jan 2020. In mid-March the Covid 19 virus caused everyone to go into lock down. Access to food being a basic necessity we knew that the foodbank needed to continue to run but in a different way. The food bank continued to be open on Wednesday mornings to receive food and Thursday mornings to distribute. The majority of our volunteers were in the high-risk group so we needed to recruit low risk volunteers along with implementing strict guidelines with masks, handwashing, barriers, and following department of health guidelines in order to keep everyone safe. The EDCFB switched from a land telephone line to a cell phone to save on costs and to ensure that clients could contact us if in need of food and come during our regular hours or arrangements could be made to provide food outside of these hours.

We received a great deal of both financial support and food donations from our church partners, individuals, business, community groups and the government. Our client numbers were not what we expected based on what was projected. Our weekly numbers were down from normal, from March to September. When clients were asked why they had not been coming some expressed feeling unsafe and not aware of the safety measures that were put in place, while most stated that it was because of government supplements; they now had money to buy food and believed if you have money you do not go to a food bank other received food support from family and neighbours.

Feed Nova Scotia started a home delivery program for clients that were not able to get to a food bank based on select criteria. The amount of food we are receiving from Feed Nova Scotia has increased significantly due to generous donations from individuals, businesses, including farmers and dairies. By September we were able to bring back a number of our regular volunteers. Again, this year our partner churches and community groups answered our call for school supplies. We were able to provide a backpack and supplies to everyone who needed them in September and again in January. We have received blankets, hats mittens and scarfs to hand out to clients. Assistance was provided to ensure clients were registered for Christmas Support. Applications for heating support are being given out through the foodbank.

In September we were able to implement a modified version of the grocery store model, thus giving our clients input into the foods that they would receive. The "After the Bell" program took place again this year from May – Aug. Each child was provided with a package of non-perishable cereal, granola bar, container of milk and 2 fresh fruits.

Throughout the pandemic Feed Nova Scotia has paired up with dairies and was able to provide us with fresh milk weekly for 2 months. Recently they have paired with egg farmers and are providing us with fresh eggs every week until March.



Although it has been a different year at the food bank it has been a very rewarding year. A big thank you to all of the wonderful committed volunteers who make it all possible and to the board whose ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Shaureen Taweel, Coordinator, EDCFB

Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn: The Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn closed its doors in the spring of 2020.

Time-out for Seniors This was run by the Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn. The group is no longer operating. It is hopeful that the card players will form under another organization or independently, as it was a well attended weekly group event.

Time Out For Crafts

Time Out for Crafts is an outreach project, and is open to anyone in the community. Due to the coronavirus, we only met until the middle of March, missed a few weeks, and couldn't have our closing in April. I have been in touch with many of them, and they all miss coming and getting together. It is a great place to meet new friends, enjoy crafts, and hope that we'll be able to get together again in September of 2021. We had 51 join us in January. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:30. The fee is \$20.00 for ten weeks of instruction.

Courses that were offered were: Crochet, Knitting, Quilting, Needlework of various kinds, Decorative painting and Bridge. Our teachers have been with us many years, and thanks go to: Elizabeth Crawford, Cindy Crane, Norma Hemming, Rita Erskine, Violet Oare, Joanne Kane and Dorothy Sams, also to committee members – Thelma Ernst, Joan Angus, Carol Weare and Aruna Khan. Thelma and Aruna looking after our tea break. All ideas are welcome, and any inquires may be sent to Dorothy at email: dfsams@gmail.com or phone (902)434-0989

Financial Statement:

Carried over from 2019		\$15.00
Receipts:		
	Registration Fees:	1020.00
Total		1035.00
Disbursements	Woodlawn United Church General	550.00
	Woodlawn Accessibility	475.00
	Supplies, tea & coffee	10.00
Total Disbursements		1035.00
Balance at December 2020		\$0.00

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Sams, Coordinator



RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Membership:

Brian Moors (Program), Helen Dixon (M&P), Shirley MacLeod (UCW), Teri Giannou (past Chair of Stewardship), Adelia Holloway (Chair). Sadly, we lost a valued member of our team with the death of Vivian Hill in November 2020.

It has certainly not been a typical year, as everything came to a standstill in March 2020. Since the AGM in February, 2020, we have not met in person. We have had a ZOOM meeting and have communicated by email and phone. We began to contact individuals in the New Year and have received a few nominations for the 2021 AGM. It is difficult for parents of young children to volunteer, as their lives are very busy with commitments to work and family. With the pandemic lock downs and home schooling, parents have had to adapt to new challenges. Thank you to all who volunteer your time and talents to support the ministry of Woodlawn United Church.

Submitted by Adelia Holloway

NOMINATIONS 2021		
Committee	Co-Chair	Co-Chair
Council		
Administration & Management	Keith Musselman	Vacant
Ministry & Personnel Co-Chairs	Helen Dixon	Cathy Kay
Community of Care Co-Chairs	Vacant	Vacant
Communication/AV/PR Co-Chairs	Paul Whyte	Vacant
Program Co-Chairs	Brian Moors	Vacant
Stewardship Co-Chairs	Kelly MacNeil	Fred Evans
Sustainability	On Hold	
Trustees Co-Chairs	Jim Allen	Vacant
Youth	Vacant	Vacant
Regional Council (15) Representatives	Helen Dixon	Vacant



STEWARDSHIP

The Following is a recap of our Stewardship work during 2020:

- In early 2020, Minute for Mission topics and speakers included a thank you to some of Woodlawn's 'Quiet Servants' from Ray DeRoche, and a presentation on the Food Bank from Brian Moors. However, once the pandemic hit out part of the world, this part of service had been, and continues to be suspended. We look forward to a time in which we can all gather once again and share these important stories and projects.
- In 2020, the committee successfully mailed out the Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas letters. This year all of the Thanksgiving and Christmas letters were mailed rather than picked up during service.
 - Thanks to Brian Moors for leading the on-site envelope stuffing events and to Joan Mikkelsen for proving labels and picking up stamps.
 - If you have questions about your givings, or if you would like to join PAR (preauthorized remittance), or obtain a box of envelopes please contact Joan at info@joanmikkelsen.com or by phoning 902-435-6296.
- We thank Mary Osborne for leading the organization of Minute for Mission (Global). Mary's report is as follows:

MISSION & SERVICE ENTHUSIAST REPORT – 2020

2020 was a year of change – change in our dress code (we now wear masks in public places), change in how we socialize (we must stay six feet apart), change in the way we worship (virtually), and especially a change in giving (gifts to most charitable organizations are down). All due to something we cannot see - the Covid-19 pandemic which is circulating all over the world.

We cannot, and do not, see all the good that our gifts to M & S do for folks all over the world either. However we hear about it through Minutes for Mission and M & S videos. When Mission and Service suffers our work of caring for those who suffer diminishes.

We were able to begin 2020 using Minutes for Mission and videos to tell the story. And, we also were able to distribute the little bottles for the "Toonies for M & S" campaign. Through that project \$744 was raised and the amount is considerably less than other years. Overall there was a shortfall in givings to M & S in 2020 of \$7,993 over 2019.

Mission and Service is the one source that the United Church of Canada has to help those in need. Let us remember that and be faithful in our gifts to M & S.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Osborne, Mission & Service Enthusiast



- Thanks to Ivan Richardson (Woodlawn's financial accounting administrator) who provides financial statements for the bulletin to keep us informed of our financial position.
- Many thanks to Wendy Fitch who manages the on-line donations. Her report is as follows:

ONLINE DONATION REPORT 2020

We received a total of \$6,554.35. From that, the general fund received \$5,794.17; M&S received \$144.39; the Accessibility Fund received \$519.78; and the Benevolent Fund received \$96.00. To donate online, visit the Woodlawn United Church website, click on "Donations", then "Canada Helps".

Respectfully submitted: Wendy Fitch

- Murdock Morrison continues to lead the Trash to Treasure program, and collects any money from the three depots that are part of this program. This year the church collected \$391! A sincere thank to all that took part. Please consider this project as a way to help our churches finances.
 - To participate in this program, drop off your refundable items to any of the following recycling depots: Canadian Recycling at 365 Portland Street; Bluenose Recycling at 99 Woodlawn Road; or Karen's Recycling at 807 Main Street, and let them know you are giving your donations to Woodlawn United Church. All money collected from the depots go to operating expenses.
- On October 25th, we celebrated Woodlawn's 136 Anniversary with guest preacher Rev. Phillip Kennedy, and guest Children's time with Shannon MacLean.
- While we were not able to continue such programs as welcome table, and newcomers; or host events such as 'Kick off Sunday', or the anniversary event, we are looking at new ways to support Woodlawn United, and are looking forward to renewing our in-person events and programs once more.
- Thanks to Christine McGinnis who continues to do an awesome job of Stewardship secretary.
- Many thanks to Rev. Mary Lynne White who supported us (all of us!) during this past year.
- Lastly, thanks to Fred Evans, who stayed on as Co-Chair this year.



- Our team consists of the following: Brian Banks, Darlene Brown (Welcome Table), Ray DeRoche, Wendy Fitch (On-line donations), Rev. Mary Lynne White, Shirley MacLeod, Christine McGinnis (secretary), Joan Mikkelsen (Envelope Steward/records clerk), Brian Moors, Murdock Morrison, Mary Osborne (M&S Global), Ivan Richardson (Accounting Administrator).

Respectively submitted by Kelly MacNeil & Fred Evans

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees have continued to maintain the property for Woodlawn United. The Covid Pandemic has been challenging to navigate for all, but with the ongoing support of many willing volunteers, we have managed well and have much to be thankful for. Below are accomplishments for 2020.

The new folding doors for the fellowship hall of the brick church have been purchased and received. Installation has not yet taken place as a few modifications will be needed.

This past summer, the back parking lot against the church addition, was reshaped to deal with water drainage issues.

Pigeons have been an annoying issue as they like the new solar panel system. Mesh has been installed around the panels to discourage them from nesting. Spikes were also installed in various areas to redirect their gatherings.

The full interior of the church sanctuary, as well as the narthex has been painted and looks great!

We are currently helping to relocate the Dun Gen into the lower hall of the Heritage building. This is a much larger and brighter area for their operation.

Halifax Fire Department conducted an inspection of both WUC buildings in December, 2020. A number of deficiencies were noted including ceiling disrepair, electrical and a Fire Safety Plan. An Order to rectify pursuant to the Fire Safety Act was issued with a deadline of March 31, 2021. The ceilings have been repaired; some of the electrical issues have been corrected. An electrician is expected within the next week to attend to the remaining issues including to install smoke detection devices in the present (old) Dun-Gen. Assistance from retired fire personnel in the Congregation is being sought to complete the Fire Safety Plan.

Respectfully submitted
Jim Allen, Chair of Trustees



WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH MEN

Not many words needed to report on our activities in 2020. We held breakfasts in January and February only, March was scheduled and cancelled the day before. We tried to keep in touch with our men via email. In December we sent out greetings which included a meaningful video about angels by Dick Charlton. We honoured Don Hill and Bob Lindsay with plaques for their many years of dedicated service to the group. Some of us kept in touch with Don Hill through his and Vivian's health issues. It was a helpless feeling not to be able to do more, especially when Vivian passed away. Our finances stayed the same, nil balance.

Bal. Dec. 31, 2019 **NIL**

Bal. Dec. 31, 2020

NIL

*Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams, Secretary / Treasurer, Woodlawn UCM*

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW year is from December to November. The year started off well on 1 December 2019 with our AGM followed by a delicious potluck supper with most of the church staff and most of the volunteers from the congregation who had helped us out throughout 2019 attending as guests. Units held their regular meetings from December to March. Marion MacDonald Unit had another successful "Soup Jar" fundraiser. In February, two units combined into one, and the Rebecca Unit welcomed a new member. The DunGen, our gently used clothing store, had excellent sales from December to mid-March. Three members participated in the World Day of Prayer service at East Preston Baptist Church on 6 March and seven others attended. Two units welcomed representatives from the Community of Faith Profile Committee and gave their thoughts and opinions on the future of Woodlawn Church.

In the latter part of March, guidelines to combat COVID-19 were in place and UCW activities ceased.

Many of our members are still not venturing out or allowing people in because of health concerns and being high risk for COVID-19. However, all units are keeping in touch with each other via phone calls and/or group emails. Two of the six units meet via Zoom but only Tabitha ventured into fundraising – a successful online sale of Epicure kits before Christmas.

UCW life memberships are awarded at our semi-annual meeting, the Spring Fling. Because it was cancelled in 2020, Marion Evans received her UCW life membership while standing on her front porch from only four UCW members physically distanced on the city sidewalk and street. To our knowledge, no other UCW life membership was awarded in 2020. Sadly, three members passed away this year. They are missed.



Due to COVID, we catered for only four funeral receptions in 2020. Our usual fundraisers and in-person activities with charities could not be held. However, each unit still contributed to many of the charities that it has supported each year without physical contact: EDC Food Bank, Edwards and Brockwell Houses, SHYM (Supportive Housing for Mothers,) and to the Christmas Outreach programs. Margaret House still received casseroles for 80+ on the third Wednesday of every month plus nine pies each for Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Monetary donations were given to Adsum House, Brunswick Street Mission, Camp Kidston, Canadian Mental Health Association, EDC Food Bank, Hospice Society of Halifax, Phoenix House, Bahamas Relief, and to Woodlawn United Church.

The Turner Room in the Heritage Centre is being renovated to become the new home of the DunGen once it can resume business.

New members are always welcomed by every unit. If anyone is interested in joining but does not know a UCW member, please notify the Office so we can contact you. We would love to have you join us in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Submitted by Bev Lynch, Chair UCW Executive

WORSHIP

The function of the Worship Team is to keep abreast of life in the church and to address concerns or coordination when necessary on the following programs: Communion, Baptisms and Blessings, Funerals, Chancel, Music, Audiovisual, Worship Assistants, Ushering, and Greeting.

Because of Coronavirus COVID-19 drastically affecting everyone's lifestyle and activities from March onwards, the Worship Team met only two times in 2020: in Room B as usual in February and on Zoom in August.

We express our thanks to the staff and individuals who have so capably conducted all aspects of worship during the year. Many duties were suspended during the shutdown times but the people responsible for the activities that could be performed (even off and on) were right there when needed.

We are grateful that the ministers and staff livestreamed the segments of our Sunday services, including Communion and story time for the children, on Facebook immediately following the lockdown guidelines in mid-March. Livestreaming of the Sunday service continues even though in-church attendance is now allowed.



Three staff resignations became effective 30 June 2020: Rev. Phillip Kennedy, Shannon MacLean, and Marlene Nolet. We wish them great success in their new positions for Phillip and Shannon, and for the easier workload for Marlene. Without another minister working with her for the rest of the year, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte had a very heavy workload and did an amazing job. Jim Farmer and June Rigden will share the position of choir director once the choir can practice and perform again.

The position of Chair of the Worship Committee remains vacant.

As COVID restrictions are lifted in the future, more volunteers as ushers, worship assistants, and to assist in care of the Chancel will be needed. Please express your interest to the Office and it will be passed to the person in charge of the activity.

Submitted by Bev Lynch, Secretary of Worship Committee

Chancel Report

As I sit here to write up a report for the Chancel Committee for this past year, I wonder where to start. It has been a year unlike any others and we are trying to be as normal as possible during a trying time.

We were able to decorate the Sanctuary on most of the regular seasons, particularly Thanksgiving and Advent. As you know we purchased most of the food for the Harvest display at Thanksgiving and all that food goes to the Food Bank after it leaves the Sanctuary on Thanksgiving Sunday.

I really appreciate all of the help I get from my husband because without him, lifting and reaching the storage containers, I would be unable to do my job. Thanks also to Fay Gunter for looking after the banners and to everyone who comes to help decorate for Advent, especially Burnell Field.

Looking forward to a better year in 2021 and wishing you all good health and happiness.

Submitted by Carol Fulmer, Chancel Committee



Funeral Report Page 1

Funeral Services Conducted by Woodlawn United Church Clergy in 2020

	Name	Date of Death	Date of Visitation	Date of Funeral at WUC or * Other site	Clergy	Funeral Liaison Coordinator	Funeral Home staff present re *pre Funeral or Funeral	UCW Reception No booked	Funeral or Committal Held at Other Location
1	Baille, Rita Barbara	Aug 10 2017		*Sep 09 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Pleasant Hill Cemetery
2	Baker, Betty Diane	Apr 18 2018		*Sep 09 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Pleasant Hill Cemetery
3	Todd, Gerald Allan	Nov 28 2019		Jan 3 2020	Rev Phillip Kennedy	Nell & Sheila	*Lester Atkinson	150	
4	Polley, Allan William "Bill"	Dec 15 2019		Jan 13 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Sheila	*Dartmouth. Funeral Home	100	
5	Harvey, Nila Ruth	Jan 18 2020		*Mar 14 2020	Rev Phillip Kennedy				Atlantic
6	Baker, Frank Irwin	Feb 02 2020		*Sep 09 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Pleasant Hill Cemetery
7	Watson-Schutz, Kelly	Feb 18 2020		March 7 2020	Shannon MacLean	Nell		200	
8	Tait, Carleton Stanley "Tonny"	Mar 01 2020		*June 11 2020	Rev Phillip Kennedy				Mount Hermon
9	Armsworthy, Janice "Nickie"	Mar 04 2020		Mar 12 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Nell		100	
10	Short, Luann	Mar 08 2020		*Mar 15 2020	Kennedy				Atlantic
11	Dalrymple, Paul	Mar 17 2020		*Aug 28 2020	Katherine Logan				Dartmouth Memorial Gardens Woodlawn Cemetery
12	Welsh, Maude	April 27 2020		*July 6 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Dartmouth Memorial Gardens
13	Johnston, Virginia "Jenny" Edna	May 23 2020		*Oct 28 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Dartmouth Memorial Gardens
14	Pettipas (Nichola), Helen "Carolyn"	July 5 2020		Oct 8 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Nell & Sheila			
15	Currie (Barro), Kelly Susan Michelle	July 30 2020		Aug. 25 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Sheila & Nell			
16	Sinclair, Harold James	Aug 12 2020		*Aug 21 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Woodlawn Cemetery



Funeral Report Page 2

Funeral Services Conducted by Woodlawn United Church Clergy in 2020

	Name	Date of Death	Date of Visitation	Date of Funeral at WUC or * Other site	Clergy	Funeral Liaison Coordinator	Funeral Home staff present re *pre Funeral or Funeral	UCW Reception No booked	Funeral or Committal Held at Other Location
17	Lemieux, Joseph "Luc"	Sep 07 2020		*Sep 22 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte				Dartmouth Memorial Gardens
18	Sweet, Betty Margaret	Sept 29 2020		Oct 06 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Sheila	*Mattatall		
19	Borden, Rhoda Marie	Nov 11 2020		Nov 20 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte	Sheila & Nell	*Mattatall		
20	Hill, (Snow) Vivian	Nov 16 2020		Family Service Nov 24 2020	Rev. M. L. Whyte & Rev. Ivan Gegan				
21	Murray, Leo Randall "Randy"	Nov 20 2020		Nov 24 2020	Rev. M.L.. Whyte	Sheila & Nell	*Mattatall		
22	Osborne, Richard Kendall	Dec 01 2020		*Dec 04 2020	Rev. M.L.. Whyte				Dartmouth Memorial Gardens
23	Connor, (MacKay) Eleanor "Ann"	Dec 23 2019		*Jan 07 2020	Rev. M.L.. Whyte				Riverside Cemetery
	Total at Woodlawn UC in 2020			10					
	Total at Other Location in 2020			13					
	<p>Woodlawn United Church clergy participated at twenty-three services held at Woodlawn United Church or at other locations in 2020. Thank you to all our regular assistants and to others who in 2020, provided help to the funeral ministry at Woodlawn United Church. Their assistance allowed us to support families who are going through a difficult time.</p> <p>To the clergy, organist, reception coordinators, staff, funeral choir and those who looked after sound, video and audio recording of the service, we extend our sincere appreciation.</p> <p>It was a challenging year for everyone as we followed the health department and church guidelines to serve during the pandemic.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted by Nell Mallett and Sheila Richardson, Funeral Liaisons and members of Worship Committee</p>								



Music Committee

The year began with a few new choir members added to our numbers. Marlene Nolet, our Choir Director and Gus Webb, our accompanist led the choir through some new and some previously sung pieces of music.

When Covid hit and we were unable to gather, unfortunately, our voices were stilled. Protocol said that there should be no gathering, 6 feet distancing and no singing with or without masks. We all desperately miss singing together and I am sure that the congregation misses the music we were able to offer.

This also meant that the concert planned by Polyphony for March had to be cancelled. Polyphony as well has not sung together since the beginning of Covid.

Marlene's contract ended at the end of May but we were unable to have a farewell for her. Her direction was always faith-based and very well received by the choir. We will miss her but other responsibilities required that she not renew her contract.

Jim Farmer and June Rigden offered to step up as Co-choir Directors until the Community of Faith Profile Team had completed their task and directions for future music at Woodlawn were provided. They were not engaged to do so due to Covid restrictions. The Community of Faith Profile Team has now completed their report and the Music Committee will be meeting to review the report look at where we can go with our music both for the duration of Covid and after when we are once again able to congregate in larger numbers.

Gus Webb did renew his contract and he has done an admirable job of providing us music during our on-line services and assisting soloists or duets when they practised and sang for any of the services. We are all looking forward to the end of Covid.

Keep listening for the music which will soon (I hope) be coming back to worship.

Respectfully submitted

Dodie Covert Chair of Music Committee



WOODLAWN YOUTH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Woodlawn's Youth Committee is comprised of Kerri Graham (chair), Susan Cuthbertson, and Katherine Logan.

This year has undoubtedly been interesting, especially concerning our kids and youth. The time we spend together in person has been slim; however, despite being less than ideal, it has proved an insightful learning situation for all of us involved.

We began the year strong with Sunday school and youth group going quite well. Many in-person games and activities for youth group and Sunday school were happening at the church. However, March 2020 changed our lives and yours, and many of us are missing that sense of normal that's been gone for too long.

We celebrated new beginnings for Rev. Shannon and Rev. Philip as they moved on to new congregations; our youth came out to celebrate in a "Drive-in" Worship service on a bright and sunny day to say a warm farewell in a socially distanced way.



I began working for Woodlawn in June 2020 after being a member of the congregation for the past ten years, and I was excited to get to work. I had just finished my BA in political science and begun working towards my Masters of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology, much like my Woodlawn role models Shannon, Kim and Lisa. I'm honoured to join this sisterhood from Woodlawn. Things, however, were tough at first due to the ongoing challenges with COVID, we wanted to find ways to bring our kids some fun this summer, and with the help of our friends at Kidston camp, we were able to give a summer camp-like experience to our kids and youth. A bright and sunny day greeted us as Kidston leaders led the

individual families in games, art, activities and more! Even the parents who attended with their kids had a blast spending time together. We're excited to say that we'll be working with Kidston camp in the future once things open up again.



The summer carried on with not much to do since we were all social distancing and being safe. So I decided to completely clear out our storage room and give it a makeover! We were able to purchase several new containers to reorganize the storage room and keep things tidy. We were able to use all the old kit boxes to do up sanitized individual kits for each child, and we have also reused boxes donated from Subway to keep weekly supplies organized and clean. After many reorganizations, we now have an excellent system in place and super tidy rooms.

We also moved our primary spaces to the heritage centre so that the kids could properly socially distance themselves from the central area of the church and ensure we are abiding by all building capacity rules. By moving to another building, we increase the number of people permitted in the main building, and this way, we never have to turn away folks who worship in person. Sunday school now takes place in the long hall, which gives the kids enough space to move around and an excellent area for the kids to each have their own learning space. The youth group has moved into the board room shared with the food bank, and we are so grateful for letting us share this space. We've now hung posters, and the rooms are feeling more like home every day.

We began Sunday School and Youth Group in October to ensure all kids had adjusted to school reopening and so that if there were a rise in cases, we would not contribute to that risk by hosting in person. After a month of very few cases, we opened the doors and began in person with relatively small crews as many are staying home. The youth talked about social justice and why as followers of Jesus, we need to fight for justice and peace in our world. We focused on topics like the recent municipal election, the USA's political climate, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the Me-too movement, and Black Lives Matter. We have some fantastic kids who are very passionate about peace and justice and will go on to be remarkable young adults who care deeply about our world.

Sunday School began the year with our first rotation, Daniel's courage in Babylon, each day. Our kids participated by playing instruments to songs, doing crafts and science, and learning the bible lesson in new and informative ways. They each had their workplace but were still able to socialize and gather together, making each week super fun!



Our Sunday School and youth group came together on Remembrance Day to pay tribute to our troops and service people. We first learned about why we celebrate remembrance day and why it's so important. Our youth and kids were very intrigued by Canada's history, and many fell in love with Terry Kelly's song "A Pittance of Time" as this had been their first time hearing the wonderful music. We made cards for the troops and sea, and each painted rocks to send to the Veterans memorial park. We sent painted rocks to be laid at the



memorial and our friends at Stevens Road United Baptist Church. The stones were laid with many others and served as a lovely tribute to veterans on Remembrance Day.



Mystery Friends went for another year, although we had a smaller crew, we still had fun! Due to COVID, we had to keep our exchanges virtual, but we made lasting connections and upheld this great Woodlawn tradition! We had six pairs and celebrated together at the Santa Claus Brunch over zoom, where we gathered together, ate breakfast, visited with Santa, and even had our very own virtual dance party!



present it this year, we still had children and youth lead the service as a way of taking part.



Christmas Eve was especially busy as we had many children and youth participate, sending in music, art, and readings. Our superb Sunday School Superintendent Jennifer Evans and I moderated the service as the kids and youth did the heavy lifting! We even put on our nativity play in a socially distanced way! We're incredibly grateful to the tech team and Gus, Lisa, Adelia and my classmate Max from Knox United for helping us put everything together for Christmas eve!

During early January, we began to hold virtual game nights over the server platform known as Discord! On the second and last Sunday of the month, we gather together, welcoming new faces, and friends and take part in a game night! We play games, chat, and spend time as a youth group. We also held a monthly youth group meeting where we talked about



spirituality, our lives during the pandemic, and more. These nights are open to Teens and Tweens and will continue into the new year.

Virtual content has been a big part of our ministry! Six days of the week, we offer virtual forms of content for our youth and kids! The week goes Storytime Sunday, Music Monday, Technology Tuesday, Whimsical Wednesday, Theology Thursday, Freedom Friday, and we practice Sabbath on Saturday, so no posting! This way, we introduce our kids and youth to music, art, worship, spiritual practices, and more to help them on their spiritual journey!

This February, we have returned to Sunday School and Youth Group in-person to decline active cases and cases in schools. We are very excited to offer a curriculum for the youth based on art, justice, and science. As for the kids, we are offering a Jesus themed mini curriculum. Due to the year changing rapidly, we have switched from our typical rotation to a smaller curriculum, similar to the classic Sunday school format. We're very excited to teach the kids all about Jesus with some fun art and science!

The future is bright for us as we have a number of fun activities planned and this February we also welcomed our transitional minister Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner, we're super excited to get to know him and see all that he has to offer! We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead here at Woodlawn!

Blessings and Peace,
Katie Logan, Youth Coordinator

WOODLAWN YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee is comprised of Kerri Graham (chair), Sue Cuthbertson, Shannon MacLean (January-June) and Katie Logan (July-December).

As it was for many, 2020 was a year of tremendous change and challenge for Woodlawn Youth, marked by both the COVID-19 pandemic and the change in Ministry personnel. The Youth Committee would like to congratulate the Reverend Shannon MacLean on her ordination and extend thanks for her dedication and vision for youth programming at Woodlawn and wish her all the best at Saint Andrew's United in Truro. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome Katie Logan, student at the Atlantic School of Theology (and WUC Youth Alumnus) to the position of Youth Coordinator, beginning in July. Every new job is met with challenges, but conducting youth programs during a pandemic poses a special kind of challenge! Katie has worked diligently to continue Youth programs, while following public health guidelines. Although there have been a few opportunities to meet in person, many events have been held using video, social media, and conferencing technology in order to be together even when we need to be apart.

Woodlawn continues to engage youth of various ages, including tweens, junior youth group, and senior youth group. Throughout the year, they enjoyed activities and



discussions where they built friendships, explored social justice, shared fun times, and experienced spiritual growth.

The Youth led worship services in both June and December, and Shannon's and Katie's video and in-sanctuary messages were always thoughtful and inspiring. In June, the youth-led, on-line service featured a beautiful video on "where we see hope", even in the midst of the first pandemic lockdown. It also featured a virtual game of catch, using the magic of video editing. Many thanks to those who "played" with us, and showed that we really are "all part of the family"!

In July, we were excited to welcome Katie Logan to the position of Youth Coordinator! We feel very blessed to share in Katie's ministry and grow in faith through her positive energy. In August, Katie worked with the staff and management of Camp Kidston to offer an outdoor "pop-up event" in the WUC parking lot. Following all safety protocols, small groups of youth and children were treated to the fun games and experiences offered at Camp Kidston right in the heart of Dartmouth! Activities were led by their friendly and engaging team of counsellors. From rock painting, to pretend game shows, to sports-type games, to hilarious drama, everyone who participated (even the parents!) had a great time. Since it was open to the broader community, it was a great chance to promote Woodlawn's youth programs, as well.

In October, youth programs resumed in person, and we were so proud to mark the confirmation of 7 people, many of them from the Youth group. These youth went through confirmation classes with Rev. Phillip and Rev. Shannon before their new calls, and given the important role that Rev. Phillip and Rev. Shannon played in their faith journey, they were invited back in October to assist in leading the service where the youth confirmed their baptismal vows.

In November, youth painted rocks with poppies, and along with other painted rocks from Youth at Steven's Road United Baptist Church, and Katie delivered these rocks to Veteran's Memorial Park. Since there were no Remembrance Day Services at cenotaphs and elsewhere this year, this was a meaningful opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces. Lest we forget. November also marked the second time that in-person youth group was suspended due to public health protocols, resulting in the return to ZOOM.

In the lead up to Christmas, youth were involved in preparation for the White Gift Service and the Christmas Eve service. Katie also offered a slightly different spin on our annual Mystery Friends event. Rather than exchange handwritten letters each Sunday, Mystery Friends stealthily exchanged emails via an intermediary, and all was revealed at the COVID-friendly pancake breakfast.

The Youth Committee were challenged on how to hold our annual pancake breakfast when we couldn't actually be together! Like many things in 2020, the answer was ZOOM! On



December 19, the Mystery Friends were invited to wear their pyjamas, cook their best pancakes (or waffles!), and join together for a virtual meal and Carol-sing. A special highlight was a visit from the big man himself-- Santa Claus! A great time was had by all. While 2020 certainly forced us into a new way of conducting youth programming and events, it proved that the church is more than a building! Built and sustained a foundation of faith in God and love for each other, the Youth program continued to provide opportunities for young people in the congregation to grow in faith!

Submitted by Kerri Graham, Chair of Youth Committee