

Woodlawn United Church

Annual Report 2023



Woodlawn
United Church

“We share our lives, and grow in God’s love to be a light.”

As we reflect on all that we have accomplished in the past year, 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 a year of being together in person, in spirit, in worship, in 2024. We hope you enjoy the following reports.

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➤ Trust and Investment Reports are found at the end of this Annual Report. The Financial Reports will be provided as a separate document(s).



woodlawnunited.ca



office@woodlawnunited.ca



(902) 434-8302

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH

54 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2S1
Tel: (902) 434-8302 - Email: office@woodlawnunited.ca
Website: www.woodlawnunited.ca

MINISTRY AND STAFF

Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, B.Mus; M.Div
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner, BA Hons; M.Div; D.Min
Intentional Interim Transition Minister

Kaitlin Casselman, Office Administrator
Ruth Boutilier, Office Administrator

Maggie Healy
Youth Coordinator

Gus Webb, BScH Physics/Math, BAM Music Technology, BEd Musician/Organist

June Rigden, B.Mus; B.Ed
Director of Music

Council Co-Chairs
Jerry Jackson and Teri Giannou

Church Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Office is closed during lunch from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES IN MEMORIAM 2023



Name	Date of Death	Name	Date of Death
Jean Smith	January 1, 2023	Carolyn Doswell	May 17, 2023
Velma (Vel) Ibsen	January 2, 2023	Queenie Adams	June 1, 2023
Lloyd Murchy	January 29, 2023	Joan Angus	June 7, 2023
Robert (Bob) Pyne	February 17, 2023	Lola Heard	June 12, 2023
James Parker McCorry	February 23, 2023	Robert "Bob" Sacre	August 7, 2023
Annie Frances Lind	March 21, 2023	Marie Hartlen	August 18, 2023
Ruth Steeves	March 29, 2023	Freda Rogers	September 8, 2023
Vernon Lawrence (Laurie) Davidson	March 29, 2023	John Allan	September 23, 2023
Jeffrey Adam Gill	April 13, 2023	Wesley "Wes" Adams	September 26, 2023
Vern Clarke	April 17, 2023	Agnes Bruhm	October 14, 2023
Muriel Eisener	April 30, 2023	Karen Strang	November 18, 2023
Annette Garner	May 10, 2023	John Bracken	December 9, 2023
Christina Dalrymple	May 15, 2023		
Marilyn Wendy Foreman	May 17, 2023		

BAPTISMS

Name	Date of Baptism
Juliet Kingsley Allen	July 31, 2023

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 26 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes – Annual Congregational Meeting Woodlawn United Church – February 26, 2023

At 11:00, Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner, Regional Appointed Interim Minister, in the name of Jesus the only Head of the Church, called the meeting to order.

Rev. Dale moved a motion that Barry Zwicker act as chair of the AGM and Bob Watt as secretary. Motion was seconded by Ray DeRoche. Motion was approved.

Barry Zwicker and Bob Watt assumed their respective rolls and the attendance sheets were circulated.

1 – Motion to Extend Voting Privileges: Barry called for a motion to extend voting privileges to all adherents in attendance. Moved by Ray DeRoche, seconded by Murdock Morrison. Motion carried.

2 – Approval of Agenda - Barry noted one change to the agenda; that the Mission and Service target be changed to read \$59,000.00. Mary Osborne moved acceptance of the agenda as amended; seconded by Ray DeRoche. Motion carried.

3 – Approval of Minutes - Barry noted that there were two (2) sets of minutes requiring approval and, without exception, could be included in one motion. It was moved by Alan Ellis, seconded by Dianne Barro that the minutes of the AGM, May 30, 2022 and the minutes of the Congregational meeting, February 12, 2023 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

4 – Approval of 2022 Annual Report – Barry called for a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Report and all reports contained therein as presented. Barry also requested that the motion extend thanks to Shelley Clee for the cover to the report. Motion for acceptance was moved by Ray DeRoche; seconded by Adelia Holloway. Motion carried.

5 – In Memoriam - In remembering the loved ones, the lives lived and the lives shared of those who passed into glory in 2022 Rev. Mary Lynne and Rev. Dale read the thirty-three (33) names contained in the Annual Report. Rev. Dale quoted scripture from Thessalonians.

6 – Transitional Team Update – Rev. Dale presented a short update on the work of the Transition Team noting that work began on June 1, 2021 and continues to this day. Rev. Dale indicated that Transition Ministry provides an opportunity for congregations, after a period of a long term ministry, to refocus and reevaluate and mentioned that even with the challenges incurred because of covid opportunities to engage in workshops like the Wonder Café, the developing of the Mission Statement and meetings with groups and staff were still possible. Rev. Dale anticipated that in the near term the team will bring forth recommendations regarding the “call” of ministry personnel to Woodlawn United for the near future and this will provide and opportunity for others to be involved in the developing of a Living Faith Profile. In closing Rev. Dale thanked members of the Transition Team, Teri Giannou, Shirley MacLeod, Emily Masse, Jerry Jackson and the two region representatives.

7 – Recruitment and Nominations – Barry noted that because the new Governance Document was just presented and accepted two weeks ago, time was a deterrent in being able to present in

advance names for recommendation and approval at this AGM. However, individuals have now been approached and agreed to serve in the following positions, pending approval by the AGM. Barry presented the following and asked for a motion to accept the names as presented and that power be granted to Council "to add" as required. Motion moved by Shirley MacLeod, seconded by Jim Allen. Motion carried.

Chair of Council	Jerry Jackson
Vice Chair of Council	Teri Giannou
Ministry & Personnel	Kelly MacNeil
Trustees	Barry Zwicker
Region 15 Representative	Lisa Allen

MINUTES FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2023
Regarding Ministry Staff Recommendations

In Attendance: Ernie Nickerson, Betty Perkins, Dwight Perkins, Barry Zwicker, Christine McGinnis, Shirley MacLeod, Carol White, Myrna Morash, Mary Osborne, Eva M. Jenkins, Nancy Allen, Jim Allen, Bob Watt, June Rigden, Jim Farmer, Wendy Fitch, Carl Cunningham, Aruna Khan, Edythe Morash, Laurie White, Karen Nauffts, Belinda Awalt, Donna Jackson, Maureen Woods, Peter Woods, Sandy Kyte, Fay Gunter, Gerry Gunter, Jane Cushing, David W. Roe, Eileen Eisener, Joan Dickey, Fred Evans, Pauline Levy, Rhoda Marshall, Mona Ellis, Alan Ellis, Evelyn Webber, Bev Wicks, Donna Kramers, Elizabeth Harrison, Maggie Healy, Jerry Jackson, Gus Webb, Chelsea Pugh, Kaitlin Casselman, Bev Lynch, Dodie Covert, K. Colpitts, Kim Mitchell, Helen Henderson, Sue Young, Diane Barro, Donna Moore, Dorothy Lindsay, Bob Lindsay, Leslie Brook, Carol Loncorevic, Brian Moors, Cathy Kay, Linda MacCulloch, Ernie MacCulloch, Ray DeRoche, Ivan Richardson, Sheila Richardson, Nell Mallett, Janet Gill, Emily Masse, Margo MacLeod, Rev. Mary Lynn Whyte, Paul Whyte

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:20 A.M. by Jerry Jackson in the name of Jesus Christ, the only head of the church.

Appointment of Secretary: Motion by Ray DeRoche, seconded by Barry Zwicker that Fay Gunter be appointment as secretary. Carried

Opening Prayer: Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte

Welcome & Announcements: Jerry welcomed all in attendance. Jerry explained that our new governance model assigns Chair of Council as Chair of Congregational Meetings

Attendance Sheets circulated.

Motion to extend voting privileges to Adherents: Moved by Ray DeRoche, seconded by Ernie Nickerson – motion carried.

Motion that, we the Woodlawn Congregation, approve the recommendations made by our Council for our staffing compliment as laid out in the document "Ministry Staff Recommendation for Woodlawn October 2023". Moved by Ray DeRoche, seconded by Betty Perkins – motion carried.

Motion to Appoint a Search Team. Council has met with and selected a seven-member Search Team. Their role, to advertise for, interview and recommend for hire our new Staff Compliment. While we believe it is fully within the jurisdiction of Council to populate and appoint this Search Team on the Congregation's behalf, we would like the congregation to ratify this work. We your Council propose the following seven-person Search Team be appointed to conduct the work of securing our new staff compliment as laid out in the document "Ministry Staff Recommendation for Woodlawn United October 2023": Emily Masse, Barry Zwicker, Lisa Allen-Webb, Peter Woods, Chelsea Pugh, Alan Ellis, and Margo MacLeod. Moved by Ray DeRoche, seconded by Bev Lynch – motion carried.

Call for Adjournment: Ray DeRoche

MINISTERIAL REPORT

Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, Minister of Pastoral Care

January 2023 began with three funerals in the first week. It was busy, but with the team cooperation of funeral assistants, musicians, and ushers, we managed it well. The important thing is that each family received the pastoral care they needed at the same time as celebrating the life of their loved one.

Early in January, the Ecumenical Ministers (Anglican, United, Disciples of Christ, and Baptist) of the Woodlawn area met to decide on the theme for our Good Friday service. The service was held here at Woodlawn on Friday, April 7th, and, due to Rev. Dale's suggestion, we had a 'Funeral for Jesus' at which I presided, and Dale spoke (as the disciple, Peter) along with the other ministers speaking as other disciples/followers of Jesus. It was very well received. Many people commented on how moving the service was. Mattatall Funeral Home graciously provided a casket for our service which added an element of somber reality to the day.

On the first Wednesday of each month (not including my Sabbatical from mid-April to mid-July and my vacation from mid-July to mid-August), I led a Bible Study based on a verse of Scripture that could easily be memorized. The study was called *Word in My Heart*. Approximately 8-12 members attended regularly. This monthly gathering was a great way to socialize, and offer pastoral care as well as spiritual care. In order to make it interesting, fun, and a little challenging, I made up word games based on that month's verse(s). Therefore, within the shape of a heart, one could work on a crossword puzzle, a word unscramble, and a word search. Along with these games, we had a time of devotion, a time to study the background information on the verse(s), and a time for tea/coffee and goodies. In October, Kaitlin began creating colourful monthly book

marks with the Scripture verse on them and each member received one of these book marks each month as a little memento of our time together and a way to have Scripture close at hand. My thanks to Kaitlin for taking the time and energy to create these beautiful book marks. This Bible Study continues to be a wonderful way to spend an hour or so with kindred spirits each month.

Pastoral care/spiritual care also takes place during worship each Sunday morning, as well as during times such as fellowship after worship, during committee meetings, choir practice, and other gatherings at the church. We are blessed to have an active church with a great number of lay people involved in many areas of mission and ministry.

Funerals at Woodlawn happen all year long. Ministers offer pastoral care to each grieving family when we meet with them to prepare the celebration of life service for their loved one. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all lay people involved in our funeral ministry such as the funeral assistants, funeral choir, tech team, ushers, the UCW and all volunteers who prepare food for receptions. Your involvement with our funeral ministry is of utmost importance and is greatly appreciated. As well, my thanks to Gus/June as our music ministry team and to our office admin team, Kaitlin and Ruth, who offer great support to this ministry through their skills and knowledge. Also, thank you to Kim and Carol who are dedicated to our funeral ministry through their phone calls and delivering of grief booklets to the families who desire them.

Last year, Woodlawn was responsible for three Sunday afternoon worship services at Oakwood Terrace (one in the spring and two in the fall) and four at Ocean View Manor (winter, spring, summer, and fall), but unfortunately, Ocean View had to cancel two of the four as they did not have enough staff or volunteers to support it. However, we are hopeful worship will resume there once again. It is always an honour and a privilege to spend time in worship with the elderly, and if there are Woodlawn members who reside there, even better, as it offers a chance to have a one-on-one visit with them before or after the service. Occasionally, there are Woodlawn volunteers who attend these services such as some of my pastoral care team, as well as my husband, Paul, and others who come to sing, such as the whole Woodlawn choir with June to accompany them, and still others that come to be a loving presence and to help residents find the hymns in their hymnbooks, so I thank them all very much for their kind support.

Each Thursday morning throughout the year, the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank takes place over in our Heritage building which is sponsored and supported by Feed Nova Scotia and run by many volunteers from our church as well as several other churches in the area. I enjoy spending time with the clients and volunteers each week. It's a great way to be a pastoral presence in this outreach ministry. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who are so dedicated in their efforts to make sure this Food Bank runs smoothly. And they do it with an eager and positive attitude that shows compassion to all. May their ministry continue to be a blessing in the Woodlawn community.

Throughout the year, ministers make in-person visits at hospitals or homes, when allowed, taking prayer shawls, if desired, (thanks to Nancy and the prayer shawl team) as well as make phone calls, send emails, and chat with people who drop into our offices. We try to be a loving pastoral

presence in all situations. As well, there is a wonderful Pastoral Care Team that visits our shut-ins (in-person when allowed, or by phone) as well as someone from the team who makes in-person visits when allowed (or by phone) with those in hospital. We also have an awesome Phone Ministry Team with Ralph as overseer that makes phone calls throughout the year to all Woodlawn members/adherents. However, this team has not been as active recently due to the health issues of some of the members. This team could really use more volunteers to make it active once again. We also have a Caring Card Committee (Jennifer, Maureen, and Mary) who send notes of condolence, thinking of you/praying for you, and notes of gratitude. It is important to stay in touch with people for many reasons, but we started doing this in earnest when the global pandemic happened in the spring of 2020. Ministers and lay people do what we can to offer loving support to people on a regular basis, but also during times of crises. If the office is informed, we do our best to be there for people who are struggling. I'd like to take this time to thank all volunteers in our pastoral care ministries. You are amazing and appreciated beyond your imagining. Thank you, and may your ministries be blessed in the coming year.

When ministers in the United Church of Canada minister to a pastoral charge for 5 years in a row, they are encouraged to take a Sabbatical. So last April right after Easter until mid-July, I was on Sabbatical during which time I focused on Spiritual Direction (reading Spiritual Direction books, and taking two Spiritual Direction retreats; one at Tatamagouche Centre and one at Seton Spirituality Centre). This time was spiritually, emotionally, and physically refreshing for me and I thank Woodlawn for the opportunity to take this time away for self-care and spiritual nurturing.

My Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council work was through the Association of United Church Clergy (aUCC). I'm on the board which met monthly to discuss the areas of support we try to offer Nova Scotia clergy. We have four pillars under the acronym CARE (Community, Advocacy, Renewal, and Education) and I'm Pillar Lead for Renewal which offers spiritual care (worship/spiritual renewal at our retreats). I also organized monthly clergy luncheons for clergy in HRM and hosted them at Woodlawn on the third Tuesday of the month barring the summer months.

It was a pleasure to work with Rev. Dale Skinner, our Transition Minister, up until he finished his work with Woodlawn at the end of August. I thank Rev. Dale for covering for me when I was off on Sabbatical for three months and vacation for one month. It has also been a pleasure working with Maggie, our Youth Coordinator, Kaitlin and Ruth, our Office Administrators, Gus, our organist/pianist, June, our choir director and supply organist/pianist, and Jim when he conducts the choir, as well as all lay volunteers. Your talents and various ministries are amazing and I thank you for all you do.

Committee work is so important to the life and work of Woodlawn United Church and it requires many dedicated volunteers to belong to and work for our committees. My thanks to the Transition Team, the Search Team, the A&M Committee (Administration and Management), and especially to Joan Mikkelsen as the church Envelope Secretary, and to Ivan Richardson as our Treasurer for a couple of decades, soon to retire so a special thanks to Ivan for his fantastic work

over many years), and to the Worship Committee and the teams they oversee such as the Chancel and Sanctuary Décor Team and the Youth and Sunday school ministry led by Maggie, and to the Tech Team including Web page and Facebook people, to the Outreach Committee, Trustees and their many lay volunteers who care for our buildings and property, and to the Community of Care Team which includes the Fellowship Committee, Caring Card Committee, Pastoral Care Team, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Pastoral Phone Ministry Team, and thanks to the United Church Women (UCW) and those who volunteer at the Dun-Gen new-to-you clothing outlet, the United Church Men (UCM), the Accessibility Committee and their fearless leader, Ralph, and last but not least, to our Council members and Council Chair, Jerry Jackson and Vice Chair, Teri Giannou. Without all of you, and many other people who love to work behind the scenes, we would not have our church. The church is made up of people who love God and who love to work as the body of Christ in this world. Thank you, everyone, for everything you do to serve others in love in the name of Jesus Christ.

May our gracious God bless the mission and ministries of Woodlawn United Church as you journey into the future.

Respectfully Submitted by
Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte

REV. MARY LYNNE WHYTE'S SABBATICAL REPORT

My three month sabbatical began on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, directly after Easter Monday and ended in July.

The United Church of Canada describes clergy sabbaticals as times to rest, restore, and rejuvenate. These three things were intermingled throughout my time away.

My sabbatical began with the reading of a book called, *Sacred Conversation: Exploring the Seven Gifts of Spiritual Direction*, by Marsha Crockett. It was an excellent read and can be read many times over to continue the contemplation of each of the seven gifts she talks about in order to deepen one's own spirituality, or to help others deepen theirs.

During the week of May 3-6, I attended a Contemplative Pathways Retreat at Tatamagouche Centre called *Stirring and Stilling: A Silent Retreat*. Along with being silent while focusing on God, it included early morning worship times with the group outside in creation every morning, evening prayer with the group every evening, silent meals, a group teaching based on a spiritual practice each morning and one each afternoon, plus time to spend on our own devotional reading in our rooms or elsewhere as well as time to spend outside in nature walking nearby trails. If we wanted to speak with a spiritual director during the week, we made an appointment with one of them and broke our silence for that time period. I also kept a daily prayer/meditation journal throughout my sabbatical but it was especially detailed during my Tatamagouche retreat.

At the end of May, Dublin Street United Church in Guelph, Ontario flew me to Toronto to attend the 33rd Handbell anniversary celebration as I was invited to be their mass handbell choir

director. I had started the handbell program at Dublin in 1990 and looked after it for 20 years. The anniversary was a wonderful few days of rehearsals, spending time with some of my best friends, and putting on a terrific concert in the Dublin sanctuary on May 28 to end off our time together. It was recorded in case you're interested. Paul and I spent 22 years attending worship at Dublin Street United Church so I knew many people who attended worship on the morning of the 28th and that also came to our concert. It was fun and rejuvenating to direct handbells again, and most of the ringers were the same ones I had worked with 30 years earlier! Plus I got to spend time with three of my best friends. It was a win-win situation. Most rewarding.

Paul and I planned a trip to the UK to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. It was part vacation, part sabbatical which took place in June for 17 days. We enjoyed 5 days and nights in London sightseeing; waving at King Charles for a few seconds as he passed by in a car one day, attending 2 musicals and a Hans Zimmer concert, and visiting many historical sights. Then we went to Scotland for 12 days and nights and enjoyed see many castles and their grounds, and walking many trails. One highlight for me was spending time on the Isle of Iona where there is an international Christian retreat centre. People from around the world have made pilgrimages to this place for centuries. We spent much time walking around the ancient ruins of the nunnery as well as the ancient abbey where the Iona Community offer retreats today. We were able to attend one worship service there in the abbey sanctuary with the Iona Community and it was awesome. Also, the huge Celtic crosses on the property were amazing sights (replicas) and we spent much time listening to the tour guides (electronic) as well as visiting their museum where we saw remnants of the real ancient crosses. There was a feeling of reverent spirituality present that was almost palpable, especially in certain areas of the abbey where the monks worked, prayed, and worshiped. St. Columba, along with 12 other men, founded a monastery there in AD 563. There is much history that took place since that time, but needless to say, the run-down abbey was rebuilt in the twentieth century when there was a new interest in Celtic Christianity. It is now run by the Iona Community which was established there in 1938.

Another time of worship that was special for me was when we attended a service in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. They will be celebrating their 900th anniversary next year. St. Giles is where John Knox was a minister for many years. The choir that sang that morning sounded like angels. It was absolutely fabulous.

My final retreat was at Seton Spirituality Centre in Terrence Bay. I spent the last week of July there where I had one-on-one spiritual direction for an hour each day with one of the Sister of Charity nuns that runs the centre. By the end of the week, she gave me several of her spiritual direction books to read (and keep) for which I was very grateful. During that week, I walked the grounds down to the ocean shore, listened to birdsong which was glorious, enjoyed wholesome but tasty meals, and read devotional books. It was also a silent retreat except for the time with my spiritual director. It, too, is a place where one can feel nurtured by the Spirit in a deeper way.

All in all, my sabbatical was a time of rest, restoration, and rejuvenation, and I thank Woodlawn for the opportunity and the time to explore Spiritual Direction in this way with the sincere hope that it will benefit my ministry at Woodlawn. And I thank God for the moments I was given to

connect more deeply with the Holy Spirit, to experience some of the 'thin' places on this planet, where earth and heaven seem that much closer together.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte*

CO-CHAIRS OF COUNCIL REPORT

The year was filled with both Joys and Challenges. Covid 19 continued to affect when and how we gathered. Restrictions and limitations had us social distancing, meeting via Zoom and at times not meeting at all. Despite all of this Council met on more than 10 occasions. We had our regular monthly meetings, with the exception of July and August. In addition we had a number of special Council meetings. These special meetings were to approve the Transition Teams Recommendations, to establish a Living Faith Profile Team (The group that created the Job Descriptions for our Ministerial Staff), to establish a hiring team to fill a 1/2 time Ministry role from Oct., 1st to Dec., 31st., and to establish a Search Team to interview and recommend for hire the Ministerial Staff recommended and approved by the Congregation. In December we had a special budget meeting. All of these meetings coupled with special congregational meetings to approve the Transition Teams Report and its' recommendations, as well as a special congregational meeting to approve the Living Faith Profile Teams recommendation and the approval of the members for our Search Team have made for a very busy and very exciting year. With all of this work completed, or well under way, we are well positioned for the challenges of 2024.

Though it was a year of considerable change, and while Covid still had a major affect on our congeragation... much was achieved in 2023. I will not steal any other groups thunder here by giving specifics, but we still worshiped, and did bible study, and a book study, and renovated our church, and had a potluck, and had chowders, and had take out Turkey Dinner, and had concerts. Despite all odds we were a people of God, loving and caring for one another and for our community. We should all be proud of what we were able to achieve in 2023 with Gods help. There is certainly still much to do.

Council acknowledges we are still in need of volunteers. While all churches and most Charitable organizations are struggling to attract and retain workers, we have not and will not give up in our efforts to recruit folks. The job descriptions for our Ministerial hirings places a strong emphasis on developing strategies and programs that will assist us with this issue. Our new Governance Model was designed, in part, to acknowledge the difficulty in finding lay leaders and workers. The courts of the church have been streamlined and the Committees and Teams of the church have considerable autonomy and authority, within their jurisdictions, to lead and manage their groups. There is still much to do, and volunteers are always encouraged and welcomed. As I prepare this report I want to acknowledge the entire Council Team: Vice Chair Teri Giannou, Kelly MacNeil, Keith Musselman, Fay Gunter, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, Ivan Richardson, Barry Zwicker, and Liza Allen-Webb. The work done by this group has truely been a team effort.

The entire Council wants to thank all Staff & Committees and Teams of the church for your contributions in 2023. We would also like to thank the Congregation for your patience and understanding over the past year. To say it was a year of change would be an understatement.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we continue Jesus mission here at Woodlawn United Church.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Jackson Council Chair*

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Friends of Accessibility: A more normal year for our team, we were able to get 9 chowders in on the dates planned. A concert in May with Terry Kelly and Jimmie Flynn was well attended, we offered turnings by Bob Hamilton at the craft sale in October which resulted in a profit of \$276.00. All events brought in a profit of \$18,328.00 for the Accessibility Fund plus all profit (\$1733.00) from our May chowder was given to the Awe & Wonder campaign and the Food Bank. Our sincere thanks to all who baked, worked, bought chowders, tickets and turnings. We have an awesome team that work on these events, folks who enjoy each other's company. Our customer base continues to expand, many of those become friends. Chowders are planned for Jan. Feb. March, April and May. Evans & Doherty are booked for March 9. We have The Caledonian Orchestra booked for June 1, working with Tery Kelly to find a date that works for both and having conversations with several other performers.

Accessibility Team:

When I resigned in November of 2022, I had hoped someone younger, smarter, and better looking might step forward to carry us over the next threshold. When none came forward after more than six months, I stepped back in. That led to a flurry of activity which resulted in my team all stepping up through the summer and doing the almost impossible. When the smoke cleared we had renovated the chancel, built a ramp to it, expanded the steps, new movable lectern and pulpit, improved audio / visual connections, improved lighting, replaced pews with comfortable chairs. We replaced some of the sanctuary pews with 220 comfortable chairs, installed new floor in sanctuary and entry, built new stairway to audio video booth.

We worked in tandem with the Trustees and will continue to do so moving forward as we tackle upgrading the Fellowship Hall washrooms, put a ceiling in room D and our newest project will be to explore ways to keep folks safe when snow is falling off the roof over the pond side entrance to Fellowship Hall. Lots of exciting work still on our plates.

Heartfelt thanks to all for making this journey worthwhile and exciting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Sams

Chair of Accessibility / Chair of 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 had the vital task of managing the evolving payroll system for all staff and reports 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 handled day to day reimbursements and cheque preparation and provide monthly statements and coordinate any financial reviews.
- 3) Records Clerk & PAR Coordinator. Joan Mikkelsen maintained your personal information and was the sole person to record offerings and issue annual income tax receipts. She was also responsible for the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) system. Currently 150 households use PAR as their primary means of giving to Woodlawn.
- 4) Rentals. Bev Wicks, Keith Musselman and Katlin Casselman are the Rental Sub-Committee. They managed/coordinated rental requests for church facilities. Katlin remains the initial contact as requests come into the office. She did a great job promoting use of our rental spaces, processing agreements and confirming compliance.
- 5) Tellers. Keith Musselman was responsible to ensure we had tellers for Sunday service. Beverley Wicks and Bruce Nauss assumed the task of doing deposits, with Joan, Keith or Ivan providing backup if they aren't available.
- 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 and Rev Dale Skinner were the representatives on the A&M Committee. We thank them for their input, knowledge and views during our meetings.
- 8) Trustees. Kim Mitchell was the representative for the WUC Trustees. Her participation and input at A&M meetings was much appreciated.

2023 was another busy year for A&M as we came out of the effects of Covid-19 and restrictions had eased somewhat, allowing a return to our previous way of operating. Fortunately, rental requests increased dramatically and we took in well in excess of our 2023 Budget predictions due to several long-term rental agreements.

Kathy was busy administering pay and benefits and is our Committee Secretary. Ivan Richardson committed countless hours ensuring our accounts were in order, bills paid, funds accounted for and bank accounts in order. Kim Mitchell and the trustees continued to strive for more cost saving measures. Our financial statement for 2023 showed several changes, some due to personnel changes, others to un-forecasted revenue (specifically finally receiving our insurance claim for Tropical Storm Fiona damage). Rental income came back and rental prospects for 2024 are favourable. Families on PAR continued to support WUC and remained a steady source of operating capital. PAR is still the preferred method for donations as it's more efficient and less

complicated. E-transfers are available at Woodlawn, however, for regular giving PAR is the preferred method.

There were several financial donations to the "Awe and Wonder" Campaign. Donations by the UCW, Ralph Sam's Chowder Lunch and A&M's pilot "Lobster Takeout Dinner" fundraiser as well as the previously mentioned insurance claim helped us finished in a surplus situation, as indicated in the financial statement. As per last year, we are forecasting a deficit this year and it's reflected in the proposed 2024 budget. During the year there will be opportunities for fundraising events to help offset the financial situation.

WUC hopes to have financial reviews conducted by members of the congregation with a financial background. We are looking for volunteers to assist with this review. This falls within UCC guidelines.

I would like to express 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. After many years in his position, Ivan Richardson has decided to step down. The search is on to try to find someone to take over this vital role. Kim Mitchell has also elected to step down as trustee representative for A&M. We thank you Ivan and Kim for all that you have done for us.

Respectively Submitted
Keith Musselman
Chair A&M Committee

COMMUNITY OF CARE

PRAYER SHAWL COMMITTEE

"Sometimes there are no words. A Prayer Shawl wraps someone in a hug that is the accumulation of thoughts and prayers for them."

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a valuable ministry to have at Woodlawn United. Donations of cash and wool have been helpful and very much appreciated. We are very grateful for those who have used their knitting/crocheting ability to keep our supply of blessed shawls maintained. A prayer shawl is given to anyone who may benefit from a cozy "hug of prayers" to feel God's love and solace during a challenging time.

If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact the office at Woodlawn or Nancy Allen at 902-789-1186 (nancyallen5@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Allen, Prayer Shawl Ministry

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

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. However, we rely on family members of people taken into hospital to let the office know so ministers and pastoral care team hospital visitors can visit the person in hospital once a week and offer prayer. If a person is in hospital for a short stay, especially if the office has not been notified, we may miss the opportunity to visit them.

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. The team 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 office staff. 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.

Woodlawn currently has 476 households. At this point, we only have 9 lay pastoral care people on our team, and one is 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,
Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte*

CARING CARD COMMITTEE

CONDOLENCE CARDS

The Caring Card Committee is a simple and thoughtful way to provide compassionate and Christian care within our Congregation. 35 Condolence Cards, each with a handwritten, personal note, were mailed in a timely fashion. I received two thank you cards from bereaved families, which leads me to believe that a card from Woodlawn United is much appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Taylor*

THINKING OF YOU/PRAYING FOR YOU CARDS

I sent out Thinking of You & Praying for You Cards - 28 in total. I included Tea Bags or Book Marks with each card, indicating while using these feel the warmth of our Prayers. I have had so

many, many wonderful responses to these cards. I have followed up with Phone Calls, to some, if I felt it was required.

*Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Woods*

THANK YOU CARDS

Although the numbers that I am reporting for 2023 are down from other years, it is not because I believe that there are not a great number of deserving folks, here at Woodlawn United, who are volunteering a huge amount of time.

During the past year I sent out seven thank you notes to folks for whom I received referrals. On behalf of the congregation I thank ALL who give of their time and talent, in whatever way, to keep our congregation operating smoothly.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Osborne*

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship happens following Sunday services and is a time for people to chat and enjoy a coffee/tea or juice and most likely a treat of some kind. In 2023, 36 volunteers organized this social time which means they made coffee etc before church and served it after and cleaned up. Usually, 2 people do it each time. A basket is set out for contributions and this year we brought in just over \$1000. Profits are used to buy the supplies and the rest is put into general funds. Our coffee comes from Mountain View Estates Coffee Co and is all fair trade. Please let me or the office know if you would like to help with this service. Thank you to all of you who willingly take a turn or two to make fellowship a happy time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Zwicker*

PASTORAL PHONE MINISTRY TEAM

The Pastoral Phone Ministry Team was active in the first half of 2023 but tailed off in the second half as some callers needed a break, Freda Rogers passed away and we did not find enough replacements therefore we have suspended the program for now.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams

STATISTICS

Our Congregational Roll at year end (2023) stood at 431 households and 915 individuals under pastoral care. During the year (2023), 14 individuals were added to our Congregational Roll and 54 were deleted for various reasons (relocated, deceased, unable to locate).

During the year (2023) 7 individuals were added to our Historical Roll (4 by transfer and 3 by

Profession of Faith), and 25 individuals were removed from the Historical Roll (4 transferred out, 20 deceased, and 1 other).

Submitted by: Joan Mikkelsen

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) works in partnership with the governing body (Council) and its committees, the staff, and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to support healthy and effective relationships among ministerial staff, administrative staff, all other paid staff and volunteers.

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee performs its role under the policies and guidelines of The United Church of Canada Manual. The committee is a mandated committee which functions around three roles: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role.

As of 2023, M&P have a membership of three volunteers: Kelly MacNeil as chairperson, Kevin McTaggart as Secretary and Cathy Kay as a member. The committee met a number of times both in person and via Zoom, and are in regular communication to ensure the provision of resources and support for the staff and community of faith with respect to any issues affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees.

There were two of staffing changes at Woodlawn in 2023. Reverend Dale Skinner had completed his interim ministry in August. A farewell for Rev. Dale was held, with many members of Woodlawn saying their goodbyes. Supply minister, Shaun Fryday, was hired for a 3-month term from October to December.

Reverend Mary Lynne Whyte continues to lead worship and provide pastoral care, and will be with us into 2024. Maggie Healy continues to share her gifts with the children of Woodlawn as Youth Co-ordinator. Last year Woodlawn welcomed new office support staff person, Kaitlin Casselman, in June. Ruth Boutilier continues to support the office part-time, and filled in full time while the new office support was being hired. Our music director June Rigden and Organist Gus Webb continue to support and provide Woodlawn with an excellent music ministry. The M&P committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for the continued dedication to Woodlawn United Church.

The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff, congregational members and adherents of the community of faith. If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issue or concern will be considered confidential by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action.

We are blessed with excellent staff (paid & volunteer) who are committed to their work, and we are so thankful for their work in our community of faith.

We as the M&P committee look forward to working with God's blessing into the future at Woodlawn United Church.

Respectively Submitted

By: Kelly MacNeil

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

TIME OUT FOR CRAFTS - 2023

Time Out for Crafts did not finish their winter session in 2020 because of Covid 19, so after three years we returned in February of 2023. This will be our 50th year since the beginning in 1974. We welcome anyone in the community. If you are looking for a place to meet others, and have a relaxing time, then this is for you. We serve tea/coffee each week and have a snack as well. Lots of fellowship while learning a new craft, or perhaps just keeping on with an old one, so come on out and join us.

We had two sessions in 2023, with a registration of 35 in February and 27 in September. At the end of each session we have a display of our crafts, along with tea/coffee served with an assortment of goodies. All are invited to come and join in the fellowship, while having a look at the beautiful quilts, paintings, crocheted and knitted items, and many kinds of needlework. Classes were held on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Registration takes place about the second week of January and the second week of September. Fee has been \$20.00 for ten weeks of instruction for years, but it was decided to raise the fee to \$25.00 for 2024, with expenses going up.

Courses offered were: Crochet, Knitting, Quilting, Needlework of various kinds, Tole and Decorative Painting. Our thanks go to: Elizabeth Crawford, Cindy Crane, Violet Ore, Jean Adams and Joanne Kane for keeping the groups together. We were saddened to lose Rita Erskine and Norma Hemming since we last met. This year, Juanita Sams stepped in and helped out, looking after tea/coffee and totally organized the fall session, while I recovered from health issues. Thanks Juanita,

Juanita is taking over from me in 2024, with help from Adelia Holloway and Kim Mitchell. Thanks ladies! It is not too late to join a group. Please come in any Wednesday at 1:00 and have a look, especially if you haven't been here before. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at (902)434-0989 or email dfsams@gmail.com or you may reach Juanita at: jsams19@gmail.com

Financial Statement:

Carried forward from 2020

\$50.00

Receipts:

Registration fees	\$1240.00
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Total	\$1290.00
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Disbursements:

Woodlawn United Church General	\$1240.00
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Supplies - tea, coffee, photocopying, etc.	50.00
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Total Disbursements:	\$1290.00
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Balance on hand end of December 2023:	\$ 00
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Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Sams

COFFEE HOUSE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Woodlawn's Coffee House is a program designed for people with Physical & Intellectual Challenges. It is a safe place for this community to meet, eat, play games, dance, and gather. For more than 26 years Coffee House has been a safe space for folks to gather, from September to April each year. Due to Covid Coffee House had a 3 year hiatus. In September of 2023 we returned. Initially, our numbers were light, as word began to get out that Coffee House was back. In December there were more than 30 participants. We are grateful for the generous support of Woodlawn United Church, specifically Outreach and UCW. Thank you all for your support over the years. Our doors are always open to new participants, volunteers or visitors.

Submitted by, Donna Jackson Brenda Blair

EDC FOODBANK COORDINATORS ANNUAL REPORT FEB/24

This year at the EDC Foodbank continued to serve clients on Thursday mornings from 8-11 for a total of 1912 visits. 1127 individuals of these 178 are new to Canada. This year we are seeing a big increase in international students primarily attending Cape Breton University living in East Dartmouth. We continue to see 4-6 new families each week. A number of clients are working but it is not enough. I worry about our retired clients who are living off of pensions which are not keeping up with the price of food etc.

I have continued to purchase healthier foods to add to our orders. i.e., cheese, milk, yogurt, eggs, peanut butter, bread and meat. With the increase in the price of food it is getting harder to find

items on sale. Having the new refrigerators and storage has allowed me to buy in bulk. Over the past year we have received a number of telephone calls from schools looking for food for students going to school hungry. Our goal has always been to provide food to the family which would include food for recess etc. At the board level we decide to put together a pamphlet and provide it to all the schools in East Dartmouth to distribute so everyone would have information about the food bank.

Again, this year our partner churches and community groups answered our call for school supplies. We were able to provide over 120 backpack and supplies to everyone who needed them in September.

A number of apartments/condo's, and a medical centre as well as a number of organizations did food drives in December which helped to fill our shelves for the new year. Assistance was provided to ensure clients were registered for Christmas support and for those who did not apply we provided a chicken , vegetables and the trimmings so everyone had something for Christmas dinner.

The clients and volunteers of the foodbank would like to thank the 5 churches and community partners for their ongoing support of this very valuable ministry.

Shaureen Taweel
Coordinator of the EDCFoodbank

OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our Mission Statement is to provide, in a God centered way, an opportunity to support people who are less fortunate. With the support of the congregation, Outreach puts Christian Faith into action through the programs we support.

Thanks to the help and support from the congregation, friends of committee members, Feed Nova Scotia, Sobeys, Dave's Fruit and Veggies, the choir and UCW groups, the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans' organization, and Conrad Brothers Transportation Ltd., we are happy to report another successful White Gift program here at Woodlawn.

This year 24 families received the following gifts: two boxes of groceries, fruit and vegetables, and a \$40 Sobeys' Gift Card for a turkey or other protein. In addition, each family member received a \$50.00 WalMart Gift Card, or gifts requested by the mothers.

Edward House (male teens) and Brockwell House (female teens) and Welcome Housing and Support (adult men and women) received a total of 61 shoeboxes (slightly down from last year).

A few hundred dollars worth of clothing, toys, books and games was donated to The North Grove, for children 0-10 years of age. This was changed from 0-6 years that we have done in the past, as the need was greater for older siblings this year.

About 90 mitts, hats and scarves were donated to our families, as well as to 3 local Elementary schools. Newborn knitwear was donated to SHYM (Support Housing for Young Mothers).

Our coat drive, spearheaded by Joanne Cameron, resulted in 26 (most of them new) snowsuits/winter coats that were donated to children and teens, and a few adults from our 24 families. An additional snowsuit was given to a child in need after Christmas.

The Sleeping Children around the World program received \$1040 which provided 26 bedroll kits for children in developing countries. This is up from 17 kits last year. Julie Webb is our new coordinator. We received pictures of the children from Tanzania who were given bedroll kits in 2023. These will be posted on the Woodlawn website.

During 2023, we supported the following programs with donations of money from the Outreach Committee Fund:

1. Brunswick Street Mission
2. Phoenix Food for Youth
3. Margaret's House
4. Support of a congregant evacuated in the fires in the NWT
5. The Doubletree (via All Nations Church....temporary housing for the homeless)
6. Canadian Mental Health Association

In October, the Tuesday afternoon card games (primarily bridge, but also crib and Scrabble) resumed. Approximately 40 players pay \$4 to attend each week. The proceeds are divided equally between the Church General fund and the Outreach Community fund.

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

The Outreach Committee consists of 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 in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Coleman and Al MacIsaac (Co-Chairs), on behalf of our Outreach Team: Mary Lynne Whyte, Tom Rogers, Jane Cushing, Linda Sinclair, Murdock Morrison, Julie Webb, Brian Moors, Joanne Cameron and Laurie White.

MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members - Dodie Covert (Chair), June Rigden, Gus Webb, Sheila Richardson, Mona Ellis, Kaitlin Casselman, Jim Farmer, Chelsea Pugh, Rev. Mary Lynne White

Number of times the group met – 3 plus phone and face to face consultations

Roles and responsibilities

- Strengthen and support the music ministry of the church and undergird the church musician(s);
- Function as a subcommittee of the worship team or committee;
- Undertake the search process of interviewing and calling musicians into leadership in your congregation

Highlights of the year

- Membership in choir has increased to 37
- Ukulele group started in November/23
- The hymnbooks have been moved off the floor in the basement and are now in a bookshelf in the music room.
- Baskets for beside each choir chair were purchased to set the hymnbooks and music binders in during services and rehearsals.
- The enhanced lighting in the Chancel area has made a big improvement in the ability of the choir to see their music.
- Efforts are being made to improve the audio needs of some of the choir members during rehearsals, including using the Sams room and a portable microphone and amp.
- The copies of More Voices which we have are becoming ragged. The coil binder they use does not hold up but getting them rebound is expensive. We are thinking about solutions.
- We are running out of room in the music filing cabinets and thus planning to wean out the music which we no longer use. Nova Scotia Choral Federation **may** be able to use that music.
- We also have a number of very old hymnbooks which we will be disposing of as they are no longer used.
- The choir director is now coordinating with the Youth coordinator to choose the Children's hymn for each month in an effort to have the children have fond memories of singing them in church.
- It has been noted that the choir sounds better on the audio for livestream services from up on the Chancel in front of their seats, since the microphones to record them are facing that way. Remaining in that area helps those with mobility issues to not have to navigate the steps. Should the choir sing from the steps, a different audio setup will be required.
- The choir director makes an effort to choose a variety of styles of choral music, music for smaller ensembles and soloists, and a mixture of new and old music in order to appeal to a wide range of preferences of both the choir and the congregation, something for everyone, so to speak.
- In the summer, congregants and their contacts have the opportunity to share their musical gifts during the special music slot. The choir is thankful for their well-earned break.
- Occasional instrumentalists augment the accompaniment of our choral music and ensembles, enhancing the special music chosen for certain weeks. This includes adding keyboard to certain pieces and creating organ and piano duets. The purchase of a new keyboard with potential for modern registrations is being considered.

- The Church has some Djembes (African Drums) and other percussion instruments which we plan to use with the children from time to time.
- The 3 pianos (Sanctuary, Sams room, Basement) are staying in tune well thanks to their humidifier systems. June, Gus and Bev Lynch look after this maintenance. The Music committee purchases the pads and solution needed. It has been noted by Aubrey Boone, occasional organ/piano substitute, that the sanctuary piano may need some voicing to mellow the sound. This is being investigated.

Special Acknowledgments

- Thanks to librarians – Sheila Richardson, Linda Sinclair, Mona Ellis, Bev Lynch and Dodie Covert
- Belinda Awalt who looks after our scarves etc.
- Kaitlin Casselman and Ruth Boutilier who print music PDFs that have been ordered for the choir.
- Special thanks to Jim Farmer, Dr. David Roe and Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte who have directed and composed music for the choir.
- Thanks to the many soloists, duets and other small groups for their music (Tapestry, Mitzvah, Polyphony)
- Thanks to music subs, June Rigden and Aubrey Boone, for contributing their gifts at the keyboards when Gus is unavailable.
- Piano tuner, Terry Collett, who continues to tune the pianos and has not raised his price in many years.

Submitted by

Dodie Covert, June Rigden and Gus Webb

STEWARDSHIP

No report submitted.

MISSION AND SERVICE

The Mission & Service Fund provides a wonderful opportunity for United Church members to help others all over the world. We cannot be present in Africa, Ukraine, Guatemala, Lebanon and many other areas, but through our donations to Mission and Service, we can help people in these countries, and in Canada, gain dignity, shelter and food, education and job training opportunities. Through Mission and Service our donation help train new ministers and provide funding to small congregations who are struggling to stay open. Our Mission and Service work is how we live out our United Church creed and how we put faith into action. What we do together through Mission and Service none of us could do alone. We should be proud of what we accomplish through our donations to Mission and Service.

Members of the congregation learn about the work of Mission and Service through the stories provided by the National Church. I co-ordinate the dates with Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte as to when these stories will be presented. Volunteers have regularly read the stories during worship

throughout the year. When asked to do so they always readily agree and I thank them for doing so.

Gifts from the U.C.W. are a large part of the congregations annual giving's to Mission and Service. In 2023, their gift amounted to \$3,944.36. A huge "thank you" to the U.C.W.

Members of the Stewardship Committee again rose to the occasion and organized the "Toonies for M&S" campaign. This campaign provides an opportunity not only to regular supporters but also to the church members who are not regular supporters of M&S to make a donation. In 2023, the campaign raised \$1,365. Thanks to those who made the mail-out possible.

Members of the congregation who so faithfully support the work of Mission and Service carry the presence of God with love and hope in the world. What a wonderful thing to be able to say. A big "thank you" to all the supporters of Mission and Service.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Osborne, Mission Enthusiast*

ONLINE DONATIONS (CANADA HELPS) Donations for 2023

General Fund. \$914.37
Accessibility\$ 96.25
Solar panel fund: \$19.25.

Submitted by: Wendy Fitch

TECH COMMITTEE

2023 was the first year since the outbreak of Covid that in person services were held for the entire year. From a tech team perspective this meant once again producing and running the PowerPoints, and ensuring that the sound in the Sanctuary was as good as the sound fed out to our internet watchers. Since folks were back in the church, we saw our audience watching the livestream "live" drop from about 70 per service down to 30 – 35 per service with plenty of people watching the recordings again during the week. It also meant that we needed our full 3 person team in the tech booth each Sunday.

We received our new digital Allen & Heath QU32 sound board in 2022 and although the board was much more capable than our old board, there were problems with it and in the end, we decided to return it and order a new analog board, Allen and Heath ZED 436. This board was installed in January of 2024 and is similar in operation to the loaner board we were using from Long and McQuade while we waited for the ZED 426. It is a 32 channel board so has a lot of room to grow and is relatively simple to operate.

Part of the rebuilding of the sanctuary included adding a lot of additional mic drops to the chancel and we now have the ability to add all of these connections to our new board if required. Our current setup for Sunday worship usually requires no more than 5 or 6 microphones.

Since the re-wiring of the chancel, all of our issues with mics losing sound have disappeared. I believe that the old wiring was causing interference, particularly with our wireless mics.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have had some funds donated to the tech team to help improve the ability to record choirs. Our current two hanging mics are not able to capture the full choir, which has increased in size and is no longer in the same position post the chancel renovations. The tech committee hopes to gather input from several sources before recommending a way forward. We will also discuss other broader options that could come into play at some time: replacing the lectern mics, acquiring a piano mic, replacement of the existing sanctuary PA speakers, replacement of the overhead projector, replacing the overhead projector/screen with large TVs, chancel performance lighting, additional camera for livestreamingto name a few possibilities.

A big thank you to the Tech team for all their hard work in 2023!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Whyte, Chair, Tech Team

Kaitlin Casselman (PPC, PPP, WP), Bev Lynch(PPC, PPP, A), Mike MacNeil(L, A), Murdock Morrison(A), June Rigden(PPC, PPP, L), Steve Rigden(A, L, PPP), Gus Webb(WP), Paul Whyte(A, L), Peter Woods(A, L, PPC, PPP), Barry Zwicker(A, L)

Audio (A), Live Stream (L), PowerPoint Creator (PPC), PowerPoint Presenter (PPP), Web Page Support (WP)

TRANSITIONAL TEAM MINISTRY

The Woodlawn Transition Team consisting of Teri Giannou, Jerry Jackson, Emily Masse, Shirley MacLeod and Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner from Woodlawn and Rev. Susan Chisholm and Elaine Grey representing Bermuda -Nova Scotia Regional Council, completed their transition goals with:

- 1) the approval by the congregation of the revised Governance Document in February 2023. We thank Alan Ellis for his support in the development of the governance document.
- 2) recommendations, developed by the team, were presented to Woodlawn Council and following that to the congregation, in May of 2023.

At this point the Transition Team was dissolved. Many thanks to the team for their dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and many hours invested in this work for Woodlawn United.

We also thank you all for your input, collaboration and patience during this process.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley MacLeod
Chair*

TRUSTEES REPORT

The members of the Board of Trustees of the end of 2023 include:

Art Theuerkauf, Gerald Settle, Grant Warwick, Fay Gunter, Maarten Kramers, Chris Riehl, Kim Mitchell (resigned Dec. 2023), Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte Minister, Jim Allen Vice Chair and Barry Zwicker Chair

During 2023 The Trustees met once in person with most issues being dealt with through email or informal meetings at the Church.

The Trustees generally are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of our property and our buildings. As such we conduct regular monthly checks on items such as the emergency lights, alarm systems, fire extinguishers, clear stairwells etc. In addition we make sure our infrastructure such as heating, cooling, electrical and water systems are kept in good working order. Jim Allen is the lead trustee who through many hours of onsite work helps to keep our church facilities in working order. Maintenance also includes snow removal storm water management and many items we as members take for granted. But without them being maintained and constantly under review we would not have such great spaces to worship, meet or socialize and run programs.

The Trustees work very closely with the Accessibility Team and together we have undertaken the renovations in the sanctuary over the past summer and we are working together on future phases to continue to make our facilities the best and most accessible that we are able to given our resources.

While the Trustees are responsible for keeping our spaces safe and functional day to day issues such as cleaning are done through a contracted service and the supervision of the individual working for the contractor is supervised by our Office Administrator. As Trustees we are of the view that having a part-time custodian may serve us better and as such we are looking for leads from the congregation for someone who may be able to fill that role. If any member of the congregation is interested or is aware of someone who might be able to help in this regard we would ask they contact Jim Allen or Barry Zwicker.

This past summer we had the Heritage Center totally repainted on the outside. The contractor did a great job. This project was fully funded through several grants that our friend Ernie Nickerson was successful in coordinating and receiving.

There are always emergency repairs and issues when you have as much infrastructure as Woodlawn has in two buildings and when the age of the buildings and systems inside them are aging. A recent example is the failure of the elevator. The elevator is an important component of our accessibility system and as such required attention as soon as we received notice it was not

working properly. Within an hour we were able to get it back in operation and are now having it further checked out to hopefully prevent it from stopping again.

The Trustees are also responsible for management of our monetary investments. Grant Warwick has lead the charge in staying on top of the ever demanding investment opportunities while protecting the initial funds entrusted to the Trustees. Grant has worked closely with Ivan Richardson our church Treasurer for many years and they have made a very good team that works ultimately for the good of Woodlawn. We will miss Ivan as he retires from his current position after many years of true dedication. We look forward to building a similar relationship with the individual who will fill Ivans Shoes.

The Trustees are always looking at new projects for the church and this coming year we have budgeted to begin replacing the outside doors on both the Heritage Center but also on our main building. Trustees will be working with the Accessibility team to renovate the two very old washrooms off the fellowship hall. We will be looking into further renovations in the Heritage Centre basement to make it more functional in the future. As always we are responding to ongoing maintenance and operational issues as they arise.

Respectively Submitted

Barry Zwicker

Chair of Trustees

UNITED CHURCHES FOR DARTMOUTH (UCfD)

United Churches for Dartmouth is a venue for collaboration and sharing between congregations of the United Church in Dartmouth, NS. In terms of the United Church structure it is an example of a "cluster". The group normally meets quarterly, rotating between the various congregations. In general, many of the members of UCfD are representatives of the congregational Boards, although all are welcome.

Our Spiritual Reflections project (weekly on Wednesdays) by members of the clergy (and others) is continuing. In September we re-started our shared Christian Development program of bible studies. This program has Bible/Book studies led by members of one congregation held at another congregation.

The UCfD Facebook site for sharing inter-congregational and community events continued to provide a venue for sharing worship and congregational development activities. Weekly postings of services times (and venue) provided a common place for people to see what services, congregational events (suppers and sales) were available. The Facebook site aims to provide a venue to announce and share events between congregations and also to promote events of the larger Dartmouth community. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnitedChurchesforDartmouth/>. Come check out what is going on. There is also a UCFD YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOFRVVaqpZZd5gjmfyFgMsA> that has videos KidsCorner (crafts, meditations, lego bible stories etc.)

A major event for UCfD was the sponsored visit on April 15 by the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne. The afternoon event was held at Woodlawn United Church, with a public worship service and address by Rev Landsdowne (which was live-streamed and is available on our youtube channel), a meet and greet, and a private dinner meeting for members of UCfD. The event was well attended and quite inspirational, particularly the idea of taking advantage of *the fabulous opportunities to learn from trying new things, especially when they do not work*. To capitalize on this and make use of "great opportunities" a second event "What Now" was held in late May at Stairs Memorial United Church. A group of 20+ members from all the cluster congregations strategized to discern God's will for us. Coming out of the event we have a number of potential joint projects such as looking at a non-Sunday family service, and a shared online calendar.

One of the main benefits of UCfD has been the opportunity for members of congregational boards to meet and exchange ideas and issues. At every meeting there is an opportunity for each congregation to tell the others what their congregation has been doing and has planned for the next quarter. Other congregations then have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted.

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Hazen, Chair United Churches for Dartmouth.

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH MEN

Another quiet year for Woodlawn Men, Dale's lunches ran through the winter and spring and ceased with the departure of Rev. Dale. In November we decided to rekindle those and plan to run them through 2024. There were many requests to hold the traditional Men's Breakfast in December. That did happen with Jerry Jackson as guest speaker. Jerry spoke on Answering the Call, an interesting and inspiring talk. Good friend George Diamond sang a couple of solos and led us in a carol sing. 46 Men had an enjoyable and uplifting morning and were well fed by our Woodlawn cooks; Barry, Dwight and Peter. Profit from the one luncheon and the breakfast was \$347.00 of which \$247.00 was donated to the chancel enhancement fund and \$100.00 to Margaret's House. Several of our men have been attending a monthly Men's breakfast at St. Andrews on Lockes Rd. Several men from the DCMFPB Group also attend. Good food and good conversation with our Anglican brothers. This breakfast in on the first Saturday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams
Secretary / Treasurer
Woodlawn UCM

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The UCW membership list with the list of officers is attached to this report. In 2023 there were four units that attended monthly from September to June; two general meetings (our AGM in December and the Spring Fling in May); and a General Executive that meets four times per year. Roles and responsibilities: To unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ through witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Highlights of the year:

1. Life memberships were presented to Nancy Grant and Donna Moore, both members of the Naomi Unit.
 2. Margaret's House received 5 – 6 large casseroles per month and 9 pies at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.
 3. Our new-to-you clothing store, the Dun-Gen, in the basement of the Heritage Church had a record year in sales.
 4. Major fundraising events in 2023: Tabitha Unit led the way again at fundraising by having a fashion show in May, a Craft Show in October, and coordinating the Turkey Dinner in November. Fay Gunter, Rebecca Unit, coordinated the UCW Chowder in March and in October, the luncheon and bake table at the Craft Show. The latter was a fundraiser for the General Fund of the church, not a UCW fundraiser. Marion MacDonald Unit had their annual Cookie Jar Sale before Christmas.
 5. The 2023 World Day of Prayer service was presented at Woodlawn this year on March 3rd.
 6. Lockers to keep our purses safe and away from the kitchen were bought by Tabitha this year. The lockers are located in the small storage room at the base of the steps to the stage on the pond side. There is a coat rack there as well. The locks and keys are in plastic bags in a box on the shelf in the room. Please use the lock and key and return them to the bag and box when finished.
 7. All budgetary commitments were achieved and we finally have enough money in the Stove Fund to purchase new stoves in 2024.
- While still maintaining service throughout the year, fellowship between members is taking a bigger and bigger role.

New members are always welcome. Please contact the Office, myself, or any UCW member for the times when the various units meet and for further information. You can also just show up at any meeting of any or all of the five UCW units as you find your fit.

I thank the members of the congregation who work alongside UCW members to fill in the gaps of people needed to perform our undertakings. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted by Bev Lynch,
Coordinator,
UCW General Executive*

WORSHIP

2023 was a very active year for the Worship and Faith Formation Committee as there were a number of issues throughout the year that required thoughtful decision making by the committee. We have 10 members on our committee and all of our meetings were on Zoom. We had a total of 5 meetings in 2023 (April 12, April 26, September 27, October 25, November 22) and had both of our ministers(Rev. Dale and Rev. Mary Lynne) for the most part (Rev. Dale left in August) at our meetings. We had an interim minister(Rev. Shaun Fryday) from September- December to provide ministry support for Rev. Mary Lynne.

The committee enjoyed the time that Rev. Dale was with us especially with his leadership during the Transition and Governance period when changes were taking place with all of the committees involved in this process as it was a time when the transition team and Rev. Dale helped to clarify the changes that were taking place.

The committee members continued to give their reports at all meetings on the activities of the following programs: Music(June Rigden and Gus Webb), Audio/Visual(Paul Whyte), Chancel(Carol Fulmer), Communion, Funerals, Baptism and Blessings(Rev. Mary Lynne), Lay readers, Ushers, Greeters-(Allan Ellis)and Children and Youth- (Maggie Healy). Rev. Mary Lynne also gave regular updates on programs and activities on each of the months within the calendar year.

One of the most important changes that took place in 2023 was the decision of the Accessibility Committee(Ralph Sams, Barry Zwicker and all) to begin the remodelling of the Chancel and Sanctuary areas that would provide an open type theatre setting. The remodel included the removal of the pews in the choir loft and to a great extent, the Sanctuary(main seating area of the congregation). The pews were replaced with new and soft cushioned chairs and the overall response of the church members was very positive. The Worship Committee was eventually consulted on a number of changes, especially in the Chancel area and for the benefit of the choir members and minister as well as with the Audio/Visual team.

The topics of the Worship and Faith Formation committee were important items that in many cases needed ongoing follow up action in future meetings and these were as follows:

1. The Traditional and Alternative church services (the committee decided to remove this agenda item for the time being).
2. The Audio/Visual program had new equipment and changes in order to improve the sound/audio for church services in person and online.
3. The Budget of the committee needed clarification on a number of occasions to ensure where the funding of specific programs would go in the future.
4. The Music program needed updates during the year to reflect the type of music that was needed for the choir and for special church music events.
5. The Chancel program was again a complimentary part of the church

services with changes taking place during the church year that were very positive.

6. The Children and Youth program saw a positive increase in the number that were coming each Sunday and parents of the children were more involved as well. Because of the increase in the number of children attending Sunday School, there is an urgent need for volunteers to assist the Sunday School Coordinator in the program she presents each Sunday and with some weekly activities.
7. The Worship Committee(Murdock and Dodie) were asked by the Church Council if they would provide Supply Ministry on one Sunday each month for the Months of January-June, 2024 as support for Rev. Mary Lynne who is doing the church services three Sundays each month. Rev. Mary Lynne's commitment to do these church services is very much appreciated by the Worship and Faith Formation Committee and our Church Council
8. There are new programs planned for 2024 that the committee will be dealing with as our next meeting in 2024 is February 28, 2024 on Zoon.
9. The Committee members are as follow: Murdock Morrison(co-chair), Rev. Mary Lynne, Paul Whyte, June Rigden, Gus Webb, Dodie Covert, Bev Lynch, Carol Fulmer and Maggie Healy.

Submitted by, Murdock Morrison (Chair)

YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Youth Committee was dissolved in early 2023 and exists now as an extension of the Worship Committee. It is seen to solely by the Youth Coordinator, Maggie Healy.

Our Children and Youth programs are continuing to blossom! With enrolment well over 20 (as of the date this report is written), our classroom is often bursting at the seams every Sunday; at the rate we're currently growing, we will surely hit 30 by June 2024. Our attendance averages around 12.3 every Sunday since September 10th 2023 (some bad-weather days brings our average down by about three points). Since September (the beginning of the school year), we have welcomed four new families, and welcomed a few families back who have not attended for a while.

We truly hit the ground running in 2023. With thought-provoking units like Life In The Bible, the Abrahamic religions and what they all have in common (and that we're not so different after all), and What Does Church Mean To You; to classes about the Good Samaritan, the beauty of God's wondrous world, and how to spread God's love; the children and youth in the church are always exploring what it means to follow Jesus and how to follow His most important rule: to LOVE and CARE for one another! Our curriculum is designed not to simply teach the children to memorize these bible stories and passages, but to encourage a deeper understanding of what these stories mean and how we can take their messages and apply them to our own lives.

The Children and Youth programs took another big step in October 2023 in the establishing of an official Youth Group, held in rooms A/B every other Tuesday night for tweens and teens ages 10 and up. Though our numbers are modest, we have to start somewhere, and it gives the older children a space to ask the big questions that they might be apprehensive to ask at Sunday School. The kids are encouraged to pick the topics we cover, ranging from the history of the

United Church of Canada, to the early life of Jesus, to the life and work of His Apostles, and more. Learning together is the best way to learn!

The children put on another fantastic performance of Michael Mouse in 2023! With a generous donation from the family of Wes Adams in his memory, we were able to build permanent set pieces to last us for years to come.

With fun and exciting initiatives in the works, like family movie nights at the church, free-skates, game nights, Mystery Friends, Vacation Bible School, and more, we look forward to offering more opportunities for our families to get involved and get our children more active in the church. Keep an eye on your bulletins!

We look forward to seeing how our programs continue to grow and change in 2024.

*Submitted by Maggie Healy,
Youth Coordinator*

**WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH
 TRUST & OTHER INVESTMENTS ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF
 TRUSTEES
 DECEMBER 31, 2023**

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH

Trust & other Investments administered by the Board of Trustees - December 31, 2023

RESTRICTED GIC INVESTMENTS	%	Market Value	Income 2023	Income 2022
Operations	52.8	\$ 60,700	\$ 2,851	\$ 1,839
Bursary Fund	1.8	2,069	97	63
Cemetery Fund	1.6	1,839	86	56
Organ Fund	21.6	24,832	1,167	752
M&S Fund	3.3	3,795	178	115
Restricted Waverly Trust		148	7	7
UNRESTRICTED GIC INVESTMENTS				
Operations	18.9	21728	1021	657
RESTRICTED BANK OF NS SHARES	#			
M&S	4152	267,804	17,355	16,857
UNRESTRICTED BANK OF NS SHARES	420	<u>27,090</u>	<u>1,756</u>	<u>1,705</u>
TOTALS		\$ 410,005	\$ 24,518	\$ 22,051

Total portfolio December 31, 2023 \$ 410,005

Restricted refers to donations with the capital to be invested with the income for specific funds.

Unrestricted are donations available to the Trustees.

**WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF CHANGES
 TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS 2023**

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES

TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS 2023

Trustee investments January 01, 2023		\$	418,417
Add			
Income earned - GIC's	\$	5,401	
Income earned - B of NS dividends M&S		17,355	
Income earned - B of NS dividends Building fund		<u>1,756</u>	24,512
Deduct			
Dividends to WUC		19,111	
Unrealized loss on BofNS shares		8,412	
GIC income to WUC		<u>5,401</u>	32,924
Trustee investments December 31, 2023		\$	<u><u>410,005</u></u>
Breakdown of Portfolio			
Operations	\$	82,576	
General		27,090	
M&S		271,599	
Organ		24,832	
Cemetery		1,839	
Bursary		<u>2,069</u>	
	\$	<u><u>410,005</u></u>	
Investment Summary December 31, 2023			
B of NS shares 4572 Shares	\$	294,894	
Waverley Trust		148	
GIC's TD Mtge -Maturities			
Oct 17/24 4.50%		23,000	
Oct 17/25 4.60%		23,000	
Oct 17/26 4.60%		23,000	
Oct 17/27 4.65%		23,000	
Oct 23/28 5.20%		<u>22,963</u>	
Total	\$	<u><u>410,005</u></u>	

Investments held by TD Waterhouse