



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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In Memoriam

Adolphe Penney
Mary Ann Cofield
Pauline Anthony-Kane
James Kane

December 29, 2019
January 17
January 16
January 16

John Acreman	February 4
Lavinia May Howell	February 9
Herbert G. Penney	February 14
William John Baker	February 23
Isabel Granter	April 12
Phyllis "Peggy" Dwyer	May 15
Loretta Jean Humby	June 7
Robert Simeon Barnes	June 11
Andrew (Andy) Fowler Forsyth	June 18
Philip Saunders	September 17
Ethel Florence Pitt	September 30
A. Baxter Howse	October 31

Rema Attwood	December 28, 2019*
Charlotte Winnie Robbins	January 30*
Grace Serrick	February 3*

*Church was informed of the passing this year.

Message from the Chair of St. James Church Council

The year 2020 is a year that presented challenges we had never expected in our personal and family life and for our church and community. Snow brought worship cancellations early in January followed almost immediately by what we now call Snowmageddon – an historic snowstorm, the likes of which we had never known, resulting in States of Emergency in much of the province. We had just begun to return to normal when we were apprised by our Chief Medical Officer of Health that the Corona virus (COVID 19) had reached our province. On Sunday, March 15, the Church Council made the very difficult decision to suspend worship services and close the church buildings indefinitely. Announcing the decision of Council to the congregation following that service and the shock on the faces in front of me reminded me of how deep our church family connection runs and the faith that binds us together. We are blessed to have this strong commitment which will serve us well as continue to travel this perilous journey.

Let us not forget the life and contribution of those who are listed in the In Memoriam. They may be gone but their memory will remain with us.

We recognize with thanks the leadership and services provided by our staff: Rev. Brian Colbourne for his spiritual leadership and contribution to the life and work of St. James - we were very sorry to see him leave in June and wish him a long and healthy retirement; Susan Sheppard who continues to provide spiritual leadership at the Contemporary Services and now virtually to the full congregation, as well as untiring support to the Christian Education and community outreach programs; our Music Directors, Amy Dalziel and Branden Olsen, who continue to inspire us with inspirational music; our organizational support staff: Office Administrator SuAn Fyson Randall, who finished work December 31, 2020 - we wish her all the best in the future; and Bruce Winsor, Property Maintenance.

We also acknowledge our Clergy supply who have provided either virtual or in person services since July. Rebecca Pike for her insightful virtual services all summer; Rev. Jim Von Riesen and Rev. Marion Davis who have committed to providing in person Worship on alternating Sundays. Thank you for your inspiring spiritual leadership as we search for a full-time minister.

The Church Council monitored and managed the actions and subsequent planning that was required following the announcement of Alert Level 5 in March. At their meeting on April 28, a planning committee was formed comprised of Committee Chairs with a vested interest in maintaining services and church buildings. Their mandate to develop a strategic plan for St. James as the province progressed through the various alert level. St James Re-opening Plan was presented to Council in late June and forward to the congregation in July. This plan is continuously reviewed and updated as required. We were thrilled to announce the In Person Worship Service on September 13, 2020.

The Committees and groups of our church have provided reports highlighting activities that have occurred this past year. Many activities had to be suspended as a result of the Public Health Orders, other activities developed to respond to the needs of the congregation. I encourage you to take the time to read them.

The Committees, supported by Council at large, had been working on several initiatives that were to be presented to the congregation for approval. The vote to confirm St. James an Affirming Church, was approved at the congregational meeting of February 23, 2020. The others, a comprehensive Stewardship plan, the Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) and the Congregational Annual Meeting were postponed. The 2019 Annual Meeting was held October 4, 2020, the MAP was presented and approved at a Congregational Meeting on October 31, 2020. A search Committee was also approved to commence the process to seek a fulltime Minister. The Stewardship Plan is currently under review.

Our Lay Visitation Program provides a consistent spiritual and church family connection to those who cannot regularly make it to church. Personal visits were replaced with telephone contact. This is an important aspect of our outreach to those who are unable to come to church. We appreciate, with thanks, the commitment of those who provide this service coordinated by Janet Bartlett.

Worship services, programs and activities at St. James are dependent on a committed volunteer base. Without their assistance, there would be few programs and services to offer. A sincere thank you to everyone who has been involved in enabling any of our activities. It is hoped you found some satisfaction in doing so.

Through 2020 finances at St. James were a significant challenge. The Finance Committee, led by the Treasurer, monitored the budget carefully and made a concerted effort to keep the congregation aware of our financial status. Words alone could never acknowledge the exceptional financial support provided by the congregation in 2020.

THANK YOU. Our bottom line is influenced by income and expenditures – some unexpected. We cannot overlook the impact on income by shutting down the church and its activities from March to September nor overlook the few savings we may have realized, including the fact we do not have a fulltime minister, it is your support that we depend upon. The active oversight by our finance team, congregational support, and some assistance from the Federal Government, resulted in a surplus over expenditures for 2020.

Finally, while I would never have anticipated the challenges that 2020 brought to our church and the incredible response required, I have come to know more individual members, and am more familiar with our strengths and weaknesses than ever before. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of our Council. Council membership is comprised of a very diverse group who are committed to St. James, resulting in animated discussion and creative resolutions. I am very appreciative for their continued support. Thank you!

Best Regards

Marilyn Adams, Chair
St. James Council

Susan Sheppard, DLM, Minister for Christian Education

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
(1 Corinthians 15:51)

Oh my, what a year! Paul certainly got it right ‘we will all be changed.’ 2020 was a year of change - personal, societal, and congregational.

In her 2012 book *The Great Emergence*, American author Phyllis Tickle wrote about the 500-year cycles of change in church and society. Each cycle begins with a precipitating event. Before her death in 2015 Tickle thought the events of 9-11 to be that event for this new cycle but looking at 2020, I believe that we have just lived through the start of the next 500-year cycle as society, politics and yes, the way we do church have changed, probably forever.

It has been a year of constant change as the Corona Virus has played havoc with all aspects of our lives. What started as a fairly normal year was swiftly disrupted with the gigantic snowfall of January 17th which saw our worship services and programs halted for two weeks. Once we were all dug out, worship, Bible Study, Choirs, sewing, and other programs began again.

As Lent approached, we held our annual Pancake supper. Little did we know this would be our last social gathering. As we held our weekly services on the weekend of March 14/15, little did we know that by the next weekend, with no training, little equipment, and a lot of anxiety, we would move to online worship. We would stay exclusively in this format until September when small gatherings were permitted.

The interesting thing about change is that it sparks innovation and creativity. I can’t speak for anyone else, but the challenge of creating the online Contemporary Worship each week gave shape and a sense of the normal to my life in the initial weeks of the lockdown. I am grateful to all those who were willing to take part reading scripture, singing, editing and to members of Sight Restored who gathered in December to record music for the Christmas videos.

Though we were unable to meet in person the work of the church continued. Council and Committee meetings moved to conference calls and later Zoom. Christian Education groups such as Bible Study, book group and Youth group went online. Our MAP (Mission Articulation Plan) Committee even produce the document need to begin the search for a mew minister, all without meeting face-to-face.

Unfortunately, much of the personal contact required for pastoral care has been a casualty of the Covid protocols. Funerals, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, even ordinations all look very different. The retirements of our minister Rev. Brian Colbourne (June) and Office Administrator SuAn Randell (December) went by without the usual celebrations of their time with us.

Change is not all bad, without change there can be no growth. The difficulties we are experiencing through this pandemic will not be the end of St. James congregation or organized

religion, but it will be a reorganizing of religion in our lives and in the communities around us. It will be different, and it will be exciting. As Phyllis Tickle says, we will take all the treasures (practices and traditions) out of the attic, dust them off and keep what is truly important, leaving behind what we don't need anymore.

I'd like to thank all those who have worked to keep us connected this past year through phone calls, and emails, online worship, Zoom meetings, and even distanced conversations on doorsteps. Remember the church is not a building, **we** are the church, and when we make that phone call, give to the food bank, show an elder how to view the online service, we are being the church in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sheppard DLM
Minister of Christian Education and Youth

Lay Visitation

The Lay Visitation Group has continued its outreach during the pandemic. Although the group is unable to make in person visits, we have stayed in contact with the close to 60 congregational members on our list. We look forward to the time when we can once again meet face to face. I thank all those involved for their commitment to this project.

Janet Bartlett
Co-ordinator

Worship and Sacraments

Worship Schedule

The worship schedule for in person services had significant challenges in 2020 due to COVID-19. For much of the year all in-person services were suspended. The traditional service returned with limited numbers allowed once we reached Alert Level 2. Contemporary services have remained on-line throughout.

Communion Report

The Sacrament of Communion is an integral part of our expression of faith. Karen Brown continued to ensure the Sacrament is prepared on pre-selected dates; arranged for servers and cleanup following the service. Special measures were taken to provide a safe and respectful means of distributing communion during pandemic restrictions. Karen's leadership in this area is appreciated and we give thanks for her ongoing commitment to this ministry.

Discernment and Candidates

Katie Vardy continued her studies throughout 2020 although via distance classes and Zoom meetings due to Covid restrictions. She is still awaiting approval from the Office of Vocation for Ordained Ministry and is attending online classes with Emmanuel College.

Rebecca Pike is a recognized candidate for Ministry and is following through with her studies in Diaconal Ministry. Her work has continued with Gower Street United Church and studies with the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg all via distance and Zoom again.

Both Katie and Rebecca are in attendance at their respective schools and in regular contact with the Candidacy Board as required in accordance with the Candidacy pathways. Rebecca has applied to the Candidacy Board for her final interview, which is to take place Spring 2021.

Ushering Report

Ushering changed completely for 2020 as did so much of all our lives. The year started as normal until we experienced the shutdowns of Snowmageddon and Covid. Once Covid restrictions were lightened and we were allowed to return to in-person worship ushers not only took you to a sanitized seat, they had to follow all Covid restrictions and administer all questioning before allowing anyone to enter the sanctuary. Ushering is more than handing out bulletins or taking up the offering. Ushers are the first people you meet as you enter the church and ensure we feel welcome, SAFE and comfortable for the worship service. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to assist this important NEW role of ministry. We continue to search for a replacement for Chief Usher and would love to hear from you to offer your services or offer a recommendation.

Worship Team 2020

The Worship Team continues to schedule worship services involving the various choirs, music groups, and soloists to provide a varied Music Ministry to the congregation. Special services were greatly impacted by COVID restrictions but were pleased to offer the Memorial Hymn Sing in November and special music for Christmas Eve.

Our Music Program has the impetus to grow and flourish due to the interest, talents, skills, energy, and commitment of our Music Directors. While St. James has an abundance of talent, there ongoing challenge in maintaining regular membership in all choirs. This too, was negatively impacted by COVID as no singing had been allowed.

Amy Dalziel, Music Director continues to provide exceptional organ presentation, be it hymns or solo pieces. Her passion and creativity are very evident in her playing.

Branden Olsen, Associate Music Director, has brought new life to our Senior Choir which is evident in their anthem presentations. He has successfully completed his Master of Music in Voice and is currently working on a Masters of Choral Conducting. His solo presentations are much appreciated by the congregation. Both Amy and Branden have provided exceptional support to our virtual worship services. We thank them for their commitment and support.

Our two community choirs: Newfound Sound and the Gay Men's Chorus continue to call St. James home. They had discontinued practise from March to mid fall and we were pleased to welcome them back.

We acknowledge, with sincere appreciation, the valuable contribution to our Music Ministry of all our choirs, Sight Restored, Guitar Group, and all others who have shared their musical talent with the congregation.

A special thank you is extended to all those who have volunteered or been volunteered to participate in the presentation of worship services whether in person or by electronic media.

Closing Remarks

It is my honour to chair our Worship and Sacraments Committee, and I thank all members for their input and support during the year. I especially would like to recognize our minister, Susan Sheppard, who has been a rock for our congregation during these difficult times.

I would also like to recognize the leadership of Rev. Brian Colbourne.

We are a small committee who is in need of new ideas and energy to better reflect the diversity of our congregation and ensure our worship is designed to meet the needs of St. James today and into the future. If anyone in our congregation would like to join us, please let me know. You will be welcomed with open arms!

In faith,

J. Paul Walsh, Chair, Worship and Sacraments Committee

Marriage

Robin James Hiscock and Krista Nicole Barbour June 20
Frederick John Frazer Rideout and Heather Carolyn Normore July 1

Transfer

New Members by Transfer

None

Members removed by Transfer

None

Confirmation

None

Profession of Faith

December 13

Alice Quainoo

Baptism

March 1

Harper Ella Lewis daughter of Vanessa Melanie Cole and Roger Jordan Lewis

July 19

Quentin Cole Wadman son of Kimberly Louise (Walters) Wadman and Jeffery Wadman

October 11

Oliver Charles Klemola son of Lindsay Anne (Dutton) Klemola and Dean Michael Klemola

December 6

Shaun Nana Kissi Tenkorang son of Abena Owusua Amponsah and Kwasi Aboagye Tenkorang
James Ronnie William Pike son of Paula Elizabeth Dalton and Troy Patrick Pike

Candidate for Diaconal Ministry

Rebecca Pike

Inquirer

Katelyn Vardy

Christian Education

The year of 2020 has been an unprecedented roller coaster of upheaval and concern unseen in our lifetime. Traditionally, times like these bring us closer together as we gather for strength. This year was different as we were forced apart for our own safety and the safety of those around us. We opened the year with Snowmageddon, shutting down our group's activities for two weeks, thinking at the time that this would be the news maker of the year. We then managed to squeeze in a Potluck and Games Night, a Pancake Supper and a few of our regular groups before the middle of March saw things come to a halt.

Suddenly, Sunday School was cancelled and the library was closed. Gatherings for the Loose Threads Sewing Studio, Writer's Circle, Liturgical Dance, Tech time, and the Yarn Gatherers were all put on hold indefinitely as people retreated to their bubbles. Planning for the 2nd annual Congregational Picnic, arranged with St. James' participation through the United Communities of Faith, was also put on hold.

An old cliché became incredibly apt once again as necessity became the mother of invention. We learned to adapt and looked for new ways of doing things. Sensing the isolation impacting our various group participants, we had weekly socials online, as it became a safe space to commiserate and find strength and support in each other. As we moved online, we first met on Google Hangouts and then on Zoom, from the safety of our homes. The Not A Bible Study and Ukulele Ensemble soon found a place on Zoom as well, eventually followed by the Cross and Bean Book Club which has now grown to a dozen participants.

For the first time ever, the CE committee held monthly meetings throughout the summer. The summer months and lengthy stretch of fine weather meant some groups were able to continue meeting outdoors. Deck time jam sessions enabled the ukulele group to keep honing their skills in the open air before the weather encourage them to also move back onto Zoom. The young adults held many outdoor gatherings throughout the year. Katelyn Mayo organized a pumpkin carving in October for the youth, and Hannah Sheppard continued to regularly email the youth with activities and thought-provoking spiritual inspiration. Fundraising for The Go Project and Rendezvous was halted, but these events transitioned to a virtual platform this year as participants signed up to participate online.

As the year drew to a close and the season of advent set in, the CE committee looked for new ways to reach out to people in the continued effort to ease isolation and inspire people to continue on their journey of faith formation. We began to design and prepare content for our first CE Newsletter to be launched in 2021. The mild weather granted us the opportunity to gather outside at Susan Sheppard's house on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, for a service and to take the time to reflect and prepare for the season of growth ahead. Soon the days will be longer and brighter and we will emerge from our cocoons, our bubbles of isolation, to embrace the new normal as we continue to find ways to inspire, to find fellowship and to foster community.

I would like to thank you all again this year for creating a supportive environment through which our work is encouraged and supported. The work of the CE Committee would not be possible

without the tireless efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers, the leadership and support of our dedicated Christian Education Minister, Susan Sheppard, as well as the wholehearted support of the Congregation, the Committees, Church Council and the now retired Rev. Brian Colbourne. Rev. Brian was a great supporter of the Christian Education committee and its work and his presence will be missed. We wish him all the best in his retirement. We would also like to thank SuAn Randell for all her tireless and supportive efforts underpinning the work of CE. She was there for us both as an administrator and as a champion of our efforts to reach people in new and enlightened ways. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Thank you on behalf of the CE Committee,
Pamela Norman

Diversity Committee

This has been a crazy year for our committee and our church as a whole but we persevered and continued the work of the spirit. We may not have been able to do everything I hoped we would this past year, but I am very proud of the work we did and continue to do in the midst of a global pandemic. As many of you know the main project of the Diversity committee each year is the Diversity fair, this year the fair moved to a virtual platform. The Diversity fair was put off with great success and the virtual aspect will certainly be incorporated into future fairs in order to reach a wider audience. The committee is currently working on the last step in the Affirming process, the celebration. We hope to have the celebration in the summer of 2021. This celebration will complete the Affirming process allowing us to officially call ourselves an Affirming Ministry!

I want to thank the members of the committee Amy Dalziel, Barbara Adams, Paul Walsh, Ettie Gordan-Murray, Kennedy Collins, and Susan Sheppard for all of the work they have done throughout this past year, the events put off would not be able to happen without you!

I look forward to everything we will accomplish in the coming year and I hope you the congregation will continue to support our work.

Hannah Sheppard
Chair

Ministry and Personnel

During 2020 the Ministry and Personnel Committee consisted of four members: Heather Hickman, Rev Jim Von Reisen, David Adams and Clyde Flight, chair. As chair of the committee, I want to express my deep gratitude to all members and thank them for their work throughout the year. Their commitment to the St. James congregation is deeply appreciated and has made it possible for the committee to accomplish its tasks this past year.

As I am sure is referenced many times in the Annual Report, the pandemic currently gripping the world has had serious consequences for our Church, but under the leadership of our Chair, Marilyn, we have been coping well. The retirement of our fulltime minister, Rev. Brian and our Office Administer, SuAn has unfortunately happened at a time when, as a Congregation, we have not been able to offer our thanks and best wishes in the usual manner. We look forward to the day when we can indeed gather as a group and give them the personal best wishes they so aptly deserve.

On behalf of the congregation of St. James, we express our gratitude and appreciation to the following who served St. James with dedication and hard work. Their various ministries help make St. James the place and congregation it is.

A big thank you to:

The members of our Ministerial Team, Rev. Brian Colbourne until his retirement from Ministry on July 1 and Susan Sheppard (youth and CE) who has continued to offer contemporary worship digitally and in person services on occasion;
Our office Administrator: SuAn Randall who retired at the end of 2020;
Our maintenance/Janitorial team: Linda Martin, and Keith Davis who both served us until the pandemic happened and Bruce Winsor who continues to keep a close eye on building maintenance;
Our Organist/Music Director: Amy Dalziel and Choir Director/Assistant Music Director, Branden Olsen;
Doreen Brown for her dedication to the combined UCW and AOTS Choir prior to the pandemic with longing for the time we can resume our music;
The St. James Guitar Group as they continue, when possible, to be great ambassadors for our church as they occasionally lead worship in our congregation and also delight residents of many seniors' homes in the city with their music;
Our treasurer: Jean Thompson;
and to all other folks who helped in various capacities from time to time. Special thanks to Rev Marion Davis and Rev. Jim Von Reisen who have shared the pulpit since September and to Rebecca Pike for her leadership during the summer.

The M&P Committee acts on behalf of the congregation of St. James United Church to carry out the following (and other) responsibilities:

- Support communication between the congregation, ministry personnel and staff

- Review salaries, benefits, working conditions, etc. with all staff and make appropriate recommendations to the Church Council
- Clarify responsibilities and lines of accountability with all staff
- Review position descriptions with ministry personnel and staff and recommend changes, as necessary, to the Church Council
- Consult with ministry personnel and staff regarding continuing education needs and plans and make recommendations to the Church Council to ensure time and money are made available
- Conduct regular performance reviews of ministry personnel and staff
- Work to resolve conflict at the earliest possible stages.

The main focus of the Committee's work this past year was to offer our support to Ministry Personnel and staff as they work through their daily tasks. It has been a trying year with many new obstacles in our way.

As the Ministry and Personnel Committee, we are confident that, once this pandemic ends, we will get back to the way we were and our staff will once again share their blessing and joy with the members of our Congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Flight, Chair

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of St. James United Church falls under the governance model of the United Church of Canada and is responsible for holding all congregational property on behalf of our St. James congregation and the national church. Trustees are also responsible for managing any surplus funds held in trust by the congregation and can also be assigned responsibility by its Church Council for managing externally restricted legacy funds and family memorial trust funds. Funds managed as "trust" funds must be guided by the Model Trust Deed of the United Church of Canada Act which falls within individual provincial/trust legislation. Wherever necessary, the Board of Trustees consults with the executive of the Eastern Edge Region and trust fund personnel at General Council.

Board of Trustees Membership

The current Board of Trustees of St. James, as confirmed as confirmed at its March 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting, is comprised of Leslie J. Dean, Chair, Vera Marshall, and Bruce Hunt. Rev. Brian Colbourne also served as a member until he retired from active ministry on June 30, 2020. The Board meets in person or virtually on an as needs basis at the call of the Chair.

Property Management/Oversight

The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the St. James Church Council and the Property Committee of Council, is charged with maintaining oversight of the congregation's church property and ensuring it is maintained prudently and adequately insured. Trustees must also be consulted and give its recommendation for any property modernization and property lease arrangements. Our church property is being well maintained and is adequately insured by Ecclesiastical Insurance Limited under the umbrella insurance policy negotiated by the Eastern Edge Region. It is noted that all church insurance premiums have increased significantly over the past several years.

Family Memorial/Trust Funds

The Board of Trustees is responsible, in concert with our Church Council, for managing the AUDREY FILLIER TRUST FUND and the BETHANY DANIELLE PIKE MEMORIAL FUND as per the terms of reference of both funds as recorded in the Board of Trustees files. Both Funds are considered externally restricted funds. Generally, the Audrey Fillier Trust Fund, provides for the earmarking of interest accrued in the fund towards assisting women in need as may be identified, for example, by the United Church Women of St. James United Church. The balance in this fund at January 1, 2020 was \$7386.00 and \$7706.00 at December 31, 2020.

The terms of reference for the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Fund were finalized by the Board of Trustees and members of the Pike family on February 16, 2019 and approved by the St. James Council on April 7, 2019. These terms of reference define the fund's overall objectives at celebrating the life of the late D Bethany Danielle Pike through, for example, the provision of several high school scholarships annually and by funding young people/ youth participation in organized outreach activities such as Burry Heights summer camp and young people/ youth

development events such as the GO Project. The Fund's terms of reference also provide for a three-member oversight committee that may make specific recommendations to the Board of Trustees relative to the Fund's administration. This Committee was approved by Church Council in September 2019 for an initial three-year term and is comprised of Stephen Pike, Susan Pike and Donna Downing. The balance in the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Fund at January 1, 2020 was \$103,444.00 and \$105,942.00 at December 31, 2020.

The 2020 financial statements for both the AUDREY FILLIER TRUST FUND and the BETHANY DANIELLE PIKE MEMORIAL FUND are integral referenced components of this report and are included in the 2020 annual financial statements of St. James United Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie J. Dean, Chair

United Church Women (UCW)

This has been a most unusual year - for the world, our country and our UCW. Needless to say, this report will reflect the changes that were imposed because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The most notable change was the cessation of all meetings and activities following our meeting on March 9, 2020.

As recorded in January, our membership had declined to 41 regular members and 19 home members. During 2020, we were saddened to lose two longstanding and contributing members of our UCW, Ethel Pitt in September and Florence White in December. During the year, several of our members experienced sickness or loss and we also think about them and keep them in our prayers.

In January, we held our Annual Meeting and elected a new Executive for 2020. The Installation of Officers took place in the church on February 9, conducted by Rev. Brian Colbourne. The new members are:

Executive

Past Co-Presidents: Vera Marshall, Jean White,
Betty Pilgrim
Co-Presidents: Barbara Adams and Sylvia Cole
Recording Secretary: Gloria Le Feuvre
Treasurer: Donna Downey
Assistant Treasurer: Betty Patey
Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Baker
Honorary Member: Shirley Bursey

Committee Conveners

Flowers: Betty Winsor
Friendship Group: Vera Marshall
Membership: Shirley Bursey
Social: Menetha Dyke and Shirley Downey
Visitation: Barbara Butt
Church Council Representative: Ruth Baker
Finance Committee Representative: Vacant

In spite of having only three meetings in 2020, a few decisions and activities did occur: During the pandemic, the **Friendship Group**, under the umbrella of the UCW, kept in touch with its members. Vera Marshall, Committee Convener, called each woman on their birthday. The **Visitation Committee** also reached out to its members with regular phone calls (see Visitation Report that follows from Barbara Butt).

In February, a decision was made to change the time of meetings from the evening to the afternoon at 2 p.m., during the months of January to March, 2021. This would make it easier and safer for our members to attend during the winter.

In March, we had a guest speaker from TanJay who introduced us to new fashion trends for the spring. She also provided gift coupons to the members present. The World Day of Prayer was held on March 6, with Barbara Adams and Sylvia Cole on the Planning Committee. This service was attended by several of our members. Plans for the Spring Sale were finalized, however, this did not take place because Covid restrictions had been introduced.

In October, a provincial Gathering was hosted by the St. John's Area executive and held online via Zoom. Several of our members attended the meeting via this new technology. That same month, the Gathering Place put out an urgent request for masks and Gloria LeFeuvre suggested

our UCW could contribute to the cause. Several members made or bought masks or contributed by giving a donation to help cover the cost of the materials needed. At the end of the month, Gloria and Donna Downey delivered 390 masks to the Gathering Place! We anxiously await news about starting meetings again. We have missed our fellowship, our spiritual time together and our various fundraising activities for the United Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Adams & Sylvia Cole (Co-presidents)

UCW Visitation

The Visitation program was quickly halted in March when the pandemic hit, it created fear and apprehension in all of us, especially those of our home members. For Home members living in Retirement Centers and assisted living facilities the word "isolation" became the new norm. On a normal day they would enjoy games, socials, interaction with friends, attending church services, and visits from family and friends. Everything changed for them quite suddenly and left them feeling uncertain and helpless.

Our team stepped up to fill the void, calling the members often, listening, offering comfort, love, compassion and prayer and sending cards to let them know we were thinking of them. The summer months came and some restrictions were lifted and once again the women were allowed to see their loved ones and hold them close. Church service was again back on track, their spiritual care is so important especially at a time of uncertainty.

At the beginning of 2020 there were a total of 12 home members. Sadly, we lost two of our beloved members, Ethel Pitt in September and Florence White in December. Nina Abbott was added to the home members list in December.

There was a total of 6 visits from January to March, April to December and there were 43 telephone calls. Christmas gifts and cards were delivered to the desk/door at each residence during the month of December.

Blessings!
Respectively submitted,
Barbara Butt

A.O.T.S. Men's Club (AOTS)

Introduction: As with most church activities, those of the Men's Club were severely hampered during 2020. The club held its only meeting on Wednesday Jan 15. Our guest speaker was club member Don Blackmore who offered interesting highlights from the life of Sir William Coaker. Winter weather forced the cancellation of our February meeting and the remainder of the year fell victim to Covid 19.

Outreach: Our ministry to Pleasant View Towers with members of our club conducting the services continued for two months before being suspended by Covid.

Ministerial / Congregational Support: The usual activities of the Club were severely hampered by the pandemic. We were, however, able to assist Susan Sheppard with the preparation of the 2020 pancake supper. The combined UCW and AOTS choir, under the direction of Doreen Brown, was able to sing at the Feb.9 service but future activities were suspended.

Visitation: During the year Oliver Wellon maintained regular contact with club members with health and related challenges. We were deeply saddened during the year by the passing of AOTS members Bob Barnes, Baxter Howse and Phil Saunders. Donations in their memory were made to the Memorial Fund of St. James.

Membership: As of December 31, 2019, there were 19 members in our Men's Club.

Our 2019-20 Executive:

President:	Clyde Flight
Past President:	Leslie Dean
Vice-President:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Aubrey Hill
Secretary:	Eric King
Projects Co-ordinators:	Melvin Burt, Aubrey Hill, David Hapgood
Outreach:	Ron Robbins
Visitation:	Oliver Wellon
Men's Choir Co-ordinator:	Bruce Hunt.

Financial Statement / Balance Sheet: The audited balance sheet of revenues and expenditures for the St. James AOTS Men's Club for 2020 is appended and is an integral part of this annual report.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Flight, President

AOTS Financial Statement

St. James AOTS Men's Service Club

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

For year ended December 31, 2020

Bank Balance as of January 1, 2020 1,271.82

REVENUES

Dinner meetings		
Revenues	98.00	
Expenditures	<u>81.98</u>	
NET		16.02
Fish Dinner		
Revenues	.00	
Expenditures	<u>.00</u>	
NET		<u>.00</u>
Membership Dues		240.00
Donations/In Memorial		<u>.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		256.02

EXPENDITURES

Donation		
Church		.00
Memorial Fund		150.00
Mission & Services Fund		.00
Guest Speakers		.00
Men's Choir Organist		.00
Youth Program		.00
Christmas Dinner		.00
Miscellaneous		36.00
Bank Service Charges/Cheques		7.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		193.50

Revenues over (under) expenditures 62.52

Bank Balance as of December 31, 2020 1,334.34

Administration and Communications

January began with the anticipation of another busy, and exciting year of services, activities, events, and meetings at St. James. Our committee is responsible for getting information on the life and work of the church to our congregation through the weekly emails, Sunday bulletins, website, Facebook, Visitor newsletter, public service announcements and the media as well as foster general support and supervision of the church office.

However, the January snowmageddon found us scurrying to get the congregation informed of the cancellation of the church services and the activities.

Then, in March, with the Covid-19 virus among us, services were again halted for an indefinite time. The following months were a challenge for all sectors of the church including our Committee.

The Administration and Communications Committee was called to action. We were responsible for getting the services on the website and Facebook, which included getting the expertise of other members of the congregation to work with the committee. Trevor Bartlett and Robert White were there to assist with getting the digital services on the website with Glenda Winsor, and Sarah Norman on Facebook. We are fortunate to have these dedicated knowledgeable people who are always ready and willing to help when needed.

We were able to get the Lenten folders and the Easter Visitor out. Thanks to Jennifer Adams and SuAn, who compiled and prepared the material. The zone captains are to be commended for delivering them. Our committee is grateful for these people who, regardless of the weather, get the items to the congregation.

Every winter Trevor Bartlett and Jan Winsor apply for funding from the Canada Summer Jobs Program and is usually successful. The position was advertised through the CSJ site and for two weeks in the church emails. Under that program we were very pleased to welcome Amy Dalziel as our special events planner. Under Administration, she updated our ongoing historical record books; located church committee minutes for the past five years for archiving; used Mail Chimp to create a template for more efficient preparation of our weekly congregational emails; and she performed office duties as required. In Outreach, Amy worked with the St. James Diversity Committee and acted as our Liaison for Pride Week activities. She advertised and organized our third annual Diversity Fair, which actually became our first virtual fair. She helped create online activities - word search and crossword puzzles - that highlighted the work of Diversity groups around the province. We had hoped that Amy could organize a special fall neighbourhood project for MUN/ PWC students or for area residents. However, this was put on hold due to Covid-19. Amy completed a significant Communications project by preparing a database of hymns recorded during live church services at St. James from 2013 to 2019. As a result of Covid-19, our ministers were recording their weekly church services from home and volunteers, Sarah Norman and Trevor Bartlett, were preparing the weekly service for access by the congregation. There was a need for live church music. Amy's work will give these people easier access to the files should the need arise in the future.

In September, we hired Jake Thompson as our technical support person. Jake along with Trevor has been live streaming our services. We are pleased to have Jake in that role.

The Christmas Visitor did not go out due to Covid. However, we did get the 2021 envelope boxes out. A big thank you to the zone captains who braved the weather and got them delivered.

SuAn, our Office Administrator, was unable to work in the office during the fall due to Covid and her health issues. She diligently worked from home and, as usual, was on top of everything and kept the office duties running smoothly. SuAn retired the end of December. Her organizational skills and efficiency as well as her expertise kept our committee on task. We wish her a happy, healthy retirement.

Thank you to my Committee members: Jennifer Adams, Linda Babstock, Robin Bartlett, Karen Brown, Rev. Ettie Gordon- Murray, Sarah Norman, Glenda Winsor, Jan Winsor and Noah Morrith (our Archivist). You have been a fabulous group to work with and you are always dependable.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean White, chair

Bridges To Hope

Bridges To Hope is a unique partnership of Presbyterian and United Churches operating a food pantry and other programs. Please visit our website, www.bridgestohope.ca and Facebook page, www.facebook.com to become more familiar with our services.

Vision

A community where each person has access to sufficient and wholesome food.

Mission

Inspired by values of dignity, respect and hospitality, Bridges to Hope supports people in need through direct food assistance, instructional cooking programs and food security advocacy in metropolitan St. John's. Fundraising, food donation, volunteer participation and a healthy workplace are essential elements in sustaining these activities. In association with the United and Presbyterian churches, Bridges to Hope is a non-profit society committed to accountable stewardship, good governance, open communication and justice in all our relations.

Food Pantry

Our core activity is the operation of the food pantry from our location on Cookstown Road. This program is organized by staff and is performed by a dedicated team of volunteers. In summer months we also benefit from students who help us maintain a regular service through the vacation season. Demand for hampers continues to rise. In 2018 we served 10,336, an increase of 4.5% over 2017, and exceeding 10,000 for the first time. Food donations of staple food product come from several sources including: our church partners; corporate and school food drives; Community Food Sharing Association; purchases; and baking on site. Volunteer bakers cook bread daily for hampers and we also purchase fresh vegetables and fruit as much as we can. The rate of supply of food product varies considerably throughout the year. We are grateful for food donations at any time and encourage donors to remember us in the 'lower' summer months. We are able to maintain our hamper standards throughout the year by careful management of available product, supplemented by purchases.

Christmas Hampers

Again this year we provided Christmas hampers and again Rotary was the prime organizer and sponsor. Their continuing interest and involvement in this project is very much appreciated. This year we registered 360 families. All these families received a complete hamper from turkey to fixin's and more besides. St. Andrew's Church generously made the Kirk Hall available to us again this year for several days in mid-December as home base for the preparation and then delivery of these hampers. It is a significant team effort and the support of individual volunteers and those of HMCS Cabot personnel contributed greatly to a satisfactory completion of the project.

Bags to School

This year we provided 602 kits of school bags and supplies to registered children and youth in all grades. This is a new high, 9% higher than 2017. We appreciate the generous support again of our sponsor, Exxon Mobil, and the involvement of VOCM Cares, Pipers, and other partners and donors. The project culminates in a massive assembly process, and again we were very thankful to have the facilities at St. David's Church to perform this work.

Marketing

During 2018 we conducted an aggressive initiative to raise our profile and community awareness through use of social media, primarily Facebook. Our manager also took advantage of many opportunities to be available to news media for interviews and reports. We have already seen the tangible results of this profile in the community through increased traffic on Facebook, especially when people volunteer to push the Donate button which we conveniently provide on our website, using Canada Helps.

Special Financial Campaigns

The increased public profile has contributed to an increase in public financial support. In the spring we had a special "Generous Helping, backyard BBQ" fundraiser, continuing a program begun in 2017. This was a significant event, involving a lot of dedicated volunteer organizing effort which, while successful, suffered from an unfortunate cold weather event. During the summer we were profiled in a new project "Smart Snacks" for school kits which exceeded objectives and enabled us to fill a food gap in a positive way. We also engaged in a successful "Healthy Hamper" campaign. Late in the fall, in the important pre-Christmas period, we organized a "Miracle on Cookstown Road" fundraiser which achieved our objectives.

Thank You

There are many other programs and initiatives we could mention. All are important and contributed to an overall success. In summary, we simply observe that there are many, many individuals and organizations that voluntarily choose to support us and what we do. We also acknowledge that in 2018 the financial support from our partner churches increased by 19.6% to \$22,200. We are humbled by your confidence and trust, and we seek to be worthy of your support as we work together to improve the lives of those who come to us for help and support.

Once again, we extend a sincere THANK YOU to all for your continued support. We invite you to attend our annual meeting later this spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Angel, Chair
On behalf of the Board, staff and our many volunteers

Regional Report

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council held a virtual meeting from October 16-18, 2020. The meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing.

First Dawn Affirm Standing Committee is being called on to activity advocate for justice in issues of inclusivity within the church and ministries of our region and in the wider community.

In response, the committee has prepared the following proposal:

How might the Regional Council respond to the issue?

- The Regional Council Executive believes that history has shown us that it is not enough to say we believe all these things; we must live what we say we believe.
- The Regional Council Executive through this proposal wishes to establish an Affirm Standing Committee with the goal of working towards becoming an affirming region.
- This means that the standing committee will engage the region in an educational process in which we learn about what it means to be an affirming region.
- The proposal to becoming an affirming region will not come before the region until after we have engaged in the educational process.
- The Region's decision to enter into the affirming process does not automatically mean communities of faith are in the affirming process.
- While the Regional Executive would encourage communities of faith to enter their own educational process towards becoming an affirming community of faith if the region becomes an affirming region it does not automatically give communities of faith that status.

Note: For more information go to Affirm United Website: <http://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Baker, East District Representative

Property Committee

This Property Committee report presents the operations and maintenance activities for the 2020 year and the actions we have taken to preserve our asset, using our own human resource expertise with the exception of professional certified cleaners required for Coronavirus safety requirements. The committee's objective this past year was to stay within the budget approved by Council plus address any special requirements identified under Coronavirus guidelines. No major projects were planned or carried out for 2020.

The property budget for several items was intentionally managed to reflect an anticipated revenue reduction and thus the potential of a full budget not realized. The oil/heating cost this year was about 51% under the approved budget. The heating set points were reduced due to the building been vacant re Coronavirus. The electrical cost was reduced by 38% from the approved budget due to the building being closed. Repairs and maintenance were reduced approximately by 43% to assist with an impending reduction in revenue. St James incurs a cost of \$8600 each year for insurance.

The manse did not generate any rental revenue in 2020 but used for primary outreach. The building will have minor renovations carried out such as upstairs bathroom refurbished, new side door and other minor works. The priority plan for the Paton street manse in 2021 is to generate a rental income to support church operations.

The ongoing building maintenance and inside cleaning, lawn mowing, snow clearing at the entrance and exit doors and office management of the property were performed for the most part by hourly paid staff.

Due to the Coronavirus requirements of practicing a safe indoor environment, the church pews, sanctuary, bathrooms, offices and print rooms are all cleaned after each service by a professional cleaner.

The snow clearing and ice control agreement in place with MUN for previous years has continued very well without any major difficulty to St. James congregation and our visitors. A number of parking passes are available for special occasions and MUN vacates the parking lot for St. James funerals and other special functions where appropriate /permitted under Coronavirus.

The Property Committee also thanks those who assisted with flower beds this past year, and we will be seeking assistance from the congregation to help with planting and maintenance of flower beds and trees around the church during the summer of 2021.

The new budget for inflation, normal operation and maintenance appears to be sufficient to keep the operations moving forward in a neutral direction. The difficulty arises in maintaining the budget amount when the Church requires a major capital expenditure or an allowance for unknown emergency expenses. For example, the furnace is a growing concern, and will have a hefty price tag if the equipment becomes an issue. Minor works this year will include a church few door frames, basement window repairs, concrete wall repairs, asphalt repairs and an inspection of the Copper steeple as we are getting a few leaks.

The committee's goals for 2021 are as follows:

- To maintain St. James operated facilities to the standards that will provide safe, long-term viability for staff, congregational members and external rental users and address all Coronavirus recommendations.
- To research and remain current on new products and equipment used in the maintenance and operation of the buildings and to seek our own resources to assist with related work requiring attention.
- To assist with the preparation of the annual operational budget and provide input into any capital expenditures required in the buildings within the next 5 years.

I would like to thank the direct members of the Property Committee: Bruce Winsor, Oliver Wellon, Keith Davis, Linda Martin, and especially SuAn Randall for assistance with booking and invoicing, rental schedules and other property related requirements along with her regular duties.

A note of thanks is also extended to those who assisted in other aspects of keeping the facility and grounds in good condition. Thank you to the church members for their continuous assistance, recommendations and support along with our own St. James Ministers who keep us informed and who also assist in property matters with concerns and or recommendations.

I would also like to thank Les Dean and the Board of Trustees for their guidance and oversight from time to time.

The Property Committee is always looking for new members either to serve on a task report or just for an individual repair that has been identified.

Stay safe!
Respectfully submitted,

Bill Legge
Chair Property