



St. James United Church Annual Report



**St. James United Church
330 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, NL A1E 1B9**

Church Office: 722-1881

**Email: info@stjamesuc.org
Website: www.stjamesuc.org
Facebook: St. James United Church
Twitter: StJamesUnited**

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In Memoriam

Please Note: some did pass in earlier years, but the funeral was held in 2022 due to Covid delays.

Pamela Medhaug	March 24, 2020
George William Penney	January 1
Ethel Elfreda Templeman	January 17
Jennifer Lynn Boland	January 18
Cecil Carl Whalen	January 20
Chung Won Cho	February 1
Benjamin Bowers	February 4
Joyce Etsuko Cho	February 26
Vincent Pike	March 1
Arthur James Sibley	March 15
Jean Snelgrove	March 18
Robert Russell	March 22
Melba Jean Pike	March 24
Diane Gloria Mercer	May 2
Elizabeth Sarah Skanes	May 19
Norma Thorne	July 7
Donald Newell	July 10
Helen Amelia Crummey	July 29
Joshua Paul Nolan	August 8
Herbert Roy Clarke	August 9
Eric Snelgrove	September 3
Agnes Jean Baggs	October 2
James Gordon Inder	October 14
Dorothy Joan Hapgood	October 23
Mary Ellen Basha	November 20
June Elizabeth Benson	December 6
William Hollett	December 7
Gary Roy Tiller	December 10

We would like to extend condolences to all families and friends and to many others who have suffered loss during these difficult pandemic years.

Message from the Chair, St. James United Church Council

As we peruse the following reports, I remind you that 2022 was a year of sadness and loss for many of our church family. Let us keep our thoughts and prayers with them as we recognize the passing of loved ones in the In Memoriam list and give thanks for the fellowship and friendship we shared. 2022 has been a year of change and transition, as a church, and our community. In late March we were released from the Emergency Public Health Measures to find our way into a new normal. There was much concern and trepidation about our future. Our Covid Response Team chose to move cautiously, anticipating mixed emotions from our congregation by encouraging and respecting personal choice when it came to mask wearing and other protective measures. I sincerely thank them for their commitment and concern for our church family.

It has been uplifting to see attendance at services increase, but we are aware that there are many who have not yet returned. We pray that they will return when they are more comfortable. The Live Streaming of our services is undoubtedly a factor, and in 2022, we updated our equipment to provide improved reception for those who participate online. In September, it was truly exciting to witness the return of many of our church groups as well as those external groups who use our facilities.

Our staff have been integral to the evolution of our new normal. Rev. James brings many new ideas as he continues to provide spiritual guidance and learning to the congregation. He is involved in many activities in the church. Susan Sheppard provides leadership in exploring various forms of worship and awareness in person and online. Both share Pastoral Care responsibilities. We acknowledge the skills and commitment of our Music Directors: Amy Dalziel, Director, who continues to inspire us with beautiful music. Bob Rose, Associate Director, whose return in August was well received by the congregation. He has been instrumental in encouraging the return of Senior Choir members. Both Amy and Bob are keen on expanding the Music Program at St. James. Bruce Winsor, our property manager, continues to ensure the building remains in good shape, is clean and comfortable for use. Stephanie Harnum replacing Tracy Bishop as Office Administrator, has settled in the role and has fit in well with our staff. St. James' success could not be achieved without the tireless help of Volunteers. Whether you assisted with Worship, music, programs, ministrative support or building maintenance, please accept our sincere appreciation. We cannot continue to provide many services without your assistance.

Council met monthly via Zoom for the early part of the year but resumed in-person meetings in September on a bi-monthly schedule. Two particular projects in 2022 are significant and will, at the right time, require congregation consideration.

1. **Constitutional Review.** – St. James Constitution is dated 2006 and has been out of date for many years. Council formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Constitution and recommend changes. This began in March 2022, with a preliminary proposal to Council in the fall which involves a change in our governance structure. Presentations were available to our groups and committees for feedback. Further information and discussion will be held at our Annual Congregational meeting on March 12, 2023.

2. In September 2022, Council viewed a presentation by Miriam Bowlby, Regional Representative for Kindred Works, which acts as the United Property Resource Corporation's development and asset manager—developing and managing land on behalf of The United Church of Canada, our communities of faith, and ecumenical partners. This is under preliminary discussion and Council has made no decisions other than to explore possibilities. The congregation will be updated as discussion continues.

St. James continues to struggle to meet the financial requirements of our projected budget. In spite of continued monitoring by our Finance Committee, and cooperation by all groups and committees, and a modest increase in giving, we ended the year with a deficit. We are extremely pleased and grateful for the continued financial support of the congregation in 2022. Our sincere thank you!

I acknowledge the participation and support of the Chairs of our Committees and the clergy for their dedication to our church and its work, as well as the animated discussions at Council meetings. I am honored to serve the congregation as Council Chair.

Thank you.

Marilyn Adams, Chair

Rev. James Ravenscroft, Lead Minister

At this time last year, I had only been at St. James for a few months, still trying to get my bearings and feeling a bit unsure of what was ahead as we emerged out of another lockdown. What a difference a year makes. Although COVID-19 is still with us, along with other respiratory viruses, over the last twelve months people have been returning to Sunday morning worship. We've been gathering for coffee/tea after the service each week (with a larger monthly luncheon) and we have been holding events like the UCW Tea, Men's Fish Dinner and a rebooted Bethlehem Market. I've felt a real sense of hope in the air.

And that hope has manifested in a number of ways. As I said above, we've seen growth in attendance at 11 am worship: but not only with more long-term members and adherents feeling comfortable to return to the sanctuary, but a number of new people choosing St. James as their new spiritual home. I like to think that this may have been the result of our Community Welcome Sunday in September with a hot dog lunch after. It certainly didn't hurt to get our name into the neighbourhood. I love meeting people, so as you can imagine, a few new faces have meant outings for coffee or tea to get to know them better.

With people returning to worship, Susan, and I, in consultation with both the Christian Education, and Worship and Sacraments Committees, proposed shifting Contemporary Worship to Sunday evenings from Saturday afternoon. Rebranded as EvenTide, this has seen Susan and I alternating leadership. A big part of this for me was a desire to respond to a request from our young adults for a worship service that reflected their spiritual needs. This service, called Tapestry, launched in October and has been attended not just by young adults but older adults as well. What I appreciate most in this is the enthusiasm of the young adults who are sharing in planning, as well as leadership. The other service I lead, Sunday Table, has had some growing pains, but it too is taking hold as a worship option for people. January's was a big surprise with several recently arrived Ukrainians attending. For one table of participants, the service shifted from a celebration of Epiphany to heartfelt reflections on Ukrainian Christmas away from home.

The arrival of newcomers hasn't been restricted to worship but to new partnerships with groups in our community. Last year we welcomed two. The first, Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), set up a drop in at the old manse, and then after Easter, the Church of Pentecost, a mostly West African denomination started worshipping in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. The ICNA group recently renewed their lease while the Church of Pentecost moved to a new location with thanks to St. James for our support. More recently we were approached by an Indian Orthodox group to worship early on Sunday mornings, as well as by Quadrangle, an organisation looking to lease space to establish a centre for the LGBTQI+ community to gather for peer support and connection. These partnerships bring hope beyond St. James.

The renewed hope I see has been evident, not just in people and partnerships, but in a project that our church council initiated and to which I gave ministry support, namely the review of St. James' 2006 Constitution and Bylaws. As the ad hoc committee met, it became clear that we needed more than a few words changed here and there, but a more comprehensive review of our structure so that we can respond to the changing needs of our congregation, neighbourhood and wider community. The proposal that we will be discussing at the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting is the result. The committee is very grateful for the invaluable feedback from committees and other groups throughout this process.

Now all that said, this year has also had challenges, especially since we began the year with a projected deficit. In response we were able to host a few fundraisers to bolster our budget, but for various reasons our Stewardship plans weren't as robust as hoped. This has left us with ongoing concerns for future years. Like our Constitution Review, we need to look at our present context and to plan for the future, a review which includes discerning ongoing ministry and other staffing needs. With this in mind, we begin 2023 with an in-depth review of our Mission Articulation Plan. The committee for this will be reaching out to a variety of groups and organizing different ways to gather the input of the whole congregation.

Even with this challenge ahead, I see hope. That has been the general tone as I have visited people in their homes, especially our eldest members, led worship services on Sundays, as well as at care homes, led pub theology, hung out with young adults, co-led Wild Light Spiritual Oasis with Susan, supported various committees and offered pastoral care as needed. Even in the funerals and other crisis situations, hope has been felt by many of those concerned. This tells me that throughout this past year, and as we discern together into 2023, God is with us, leading us in hope into the coming year and well beyond.

Rev. James Ravenscroft
Lead Minister

Susan Sheppard, DLM, Minister of Christian Education

In last year's report I ended with this quote from Philippians 3:13, 'forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead'. I was thinking ahead to programs restarting and building. Unfortunately, Covid wasn't ready to totally leave us behind, but we made a start on getting the Christian Education Ministry back up and running more regularly.

A few programs I lead remained online, such as the Book Group and confirmation class. The Saturday Worship also continued in its 20 - 30 minute format.

During the fall I took part in 'Out of the Box' Storyteller training. While similar to Godly Play in format, its stories come from a wide variety of religious and spiritual backgrounds and are designed to be told in a variety of settings from children's programs to Senior's Residences. The stories have become a part of our evening worships.

In September, James and I dreamed a new worship into being which we called *EvenTide*. This Sunday evening worship changes like the tides pulled by the moon. Two Sunday's a month I lead what is known as *Story and Song*, where the worship involves just that, songs, two or three stories (one Biblical, one Out of the Box and sometimes one from another source) and community reflection on the stories. James leads the services on alternate Sundays (*Supper Church* and *Tapestry*). We also share responsibility alternating months in the leadership of Forest Church, which has now been named *Wild Light Spiritual Oasis*. Wild Light meets monthly at various locations.

With the help of the Christian Education Committee, we developed a new way of delivering the Sunday Children's Program. Unfortunately, children and young families have not found their way back to church. Similarly, parents and youth of youth group age were contacted and little to no interest in resuming the Youth Group was found.

One group that did come back in the fall, with much enthusiasm, was the Sewing Studio. Pillow, quilts, clothing alterations, curtains, this group dreams big and makes it happen. Several members of this group come from the wider community and are made welcome here at St. James.

Thank you to those who took part in the Great Christmas Visit this year. Again, Covid prevented some the visits from taking place in person but everyone on our list to be visited got a phone visit at the very least.

Beyond St. James I continue to be a member of the Out in Faith NL group and serve at the regional level of the United Church as chair of the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee.

It has been my joy to serve the congregation of St. James for the past, almost 20 years. There have been ups and downs, the coming and going of programs, leaps of personal growth and confidence, and a few times of sorrow. 2023 may see the end of this ministry, yet I will "strain forward to what lies ahead."

Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister of Youth and Christian Education

Worship and Sacraments

The Worship and Sacraments Committee members are dedicated to the ongoing ministry and work at St. James. Unfortunately, we, like most committees, are losing members due to work and other commitments. This year we unfortunately lost the chair of our committee who had to step away for personal reasons. Thank you, Paul Walsh, for the time you were able to share with us. We are always looking for people to join us. If you are interested in the work of St. James, please contact me anytime to join our committee. We would love your input into planning our worship and services for St. James.

Worship Schedule

The worship schedule of services continued on a more regular basis in person for 2022. Our Contemporary worship services were held online from the beginning of the year, on Saturdays at 4:30 pm and moved to Sunday evenings in the fall with various types of services being tried at 7:00 pm. The new service styles include Even Tide, The Sunday Table, Story and Song, and Tapestry. Our regular Sunday morning services continue at 11:00 am. Wild Light Saturday services were held on Saturdays at various times throughout the year. We are grateful to Susan and James for their continued support and initiatives being tried to gain additional support to grow our congregation. Please try to find the time to take in one of the new formats.

Communion Report

The Sacrament of Communion is an integral part of our expression of faith. Marilyn Adams continued to ensure the Sacrament is prepared on pre-selected dates and cleaned up following the service. Her leadership in this area is certainly appreciated and we give thanks for her ongoing commitment to this ministry.

Discernment and Candidates

Katie Vardy is a recognized candidate for Ordained Ministry and is following through with her studies in Toronto. Katie continues working with the Regional Councils and National Office while following new structures and processes for their journey.

Ushering Report

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 and comfortable for the worship service. They answer many queries each Sunday for the congregation and provide up to date information for all their needs. As we continue to search for a Full Time Usher in Charge, as the Acting Usher in Charge, I am truly grateful for the support of **Jean Thompson** and **Marilyn Adams** these past years through Covid for their tireless support helping me usher and to Marilyn for arranging readers for every service. In addition, many, many heartfelt thanks to those who have volunteered to assist this important role of ministry and the extra support of the **AOTS** and **UCW** when called upon.

Music Ministry

The music ministry of St. James continued and flourished due to the capable hands of **Amy Dalziel** and **Bob Rose**. They continued to work with our Ministers and schedule worship services involving the various choirs, music groups and soloists to provide a varied Music Ministry to the congregation. Special services included the Memorial Hymn Sing; worship for seniors; weekday/lunchtime

gatherings; Lenten Weekly services of reflection; a service of music with a pop-up choir and a Service of Lessons and Carols during Advent, a Christmas Pageant at 4:30 on Christmas Eve and the return of candlelight worship for the 7:30 Christmas Eve service.

Our Music Program continues 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, the ongoing challenge is maintaining regular membership in the choir. This fall the choir numbers started back in an upward swing as people grow more comfortable coming back from strict covid times. Many thanks to Amy and Bob for all their support and efforts this year and to the choir members and many soloists for returning to St. James choir pews.

We acknowledge the valuable contribution to our Music Ministry of the **St. James Guitar Group** and all others who have shared their musical talent with the congregation during a worship service or a concert event.

As always, a special thank you to all those who have volunteered or been volunteered to participate in the presentation of worship services.

Based on our present constitution, the Worship and Sacraments Committee oversees not only how we express our love for God through worship, but how we express our love for one another, both within the congregation through pastoral care, and in the wider community through social and ecological justice. Over the last year, two subcommittees have been formed to help facilitate this work.

Pastoral Care Committee: A development of the Lay Visitation Team, the Pastoral Care Committee meets regularly so that members can check in with each other regarding the older members of St. James that they visit. This committee also seeks to implement the pastoral care plan developed this past year by Rev. James and Susan Sheppard, DLM. A part of this plan is the Great Christmas Visit, an annual event where we broaden those visited to include members of St. James who may have had difficulties, illness, or a bereavement, as well as more senior members who are not regularly visited. The GCV is also a way to broaden the potential pool of lay visitors. This year's visit was coordinated by Susan. Another task the team coordinates is sending cards to members of St. James who are facing a difficulty or marking a milestone. The committee is developing a phone tree. This task is taking longer to get up and running than originally planned. Finally, members of the committee have been reaching out to those in St. James who are over 80 years old to check in and so to discern what supports they may need. The Pastoral Care Committee is comprised of Barbara Butt, Clyde Flight, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Rev. James Ravenscroft and more recently Daphne Coish and Sheilah Beckett. Additional members are warmly welcomed.

Social and Eco Action Committee: This committee is a recent development at St. James, inspired by conversations that Rev. James had with congregants when he first arrived, people sharing how they wanted to respond to pressing social justice issues in their neighbourhood, as well as environmental issues, including concerns about climate change. Over the past year, the committee has developed a "lifestyle awareness calendar" for members of St. James to use during Lent, facilitated a clean-up around both Long Pond and the immediate area around St. James, led a worship service in the Spring focused on caring for our oceans, and another in the Fall exploring the idea of a Guaranteed Living Income. The committee members include Donald Blackmore, Gloria

LeFeuvre, Jennifer Whitfield, Leslie Dean, Maggie Skinner, Michelle Skinner, Paul Walsh, Robin Bartlett and Rev. James. New members are most welcome.

Closing Remarks

2022 has been another busy year in our church life. While baptisms and weddings have been few in numbers we continue with a larger number of funerals as my Clerk of Session report indicates.

I would like to thank the members of our Worship and Sacraments Committee for their input and support during the year. Marilyn Adams, Marina Adams, Ruth Baker, Gloria LeFevre, and Amy Dalziel. Thank you to you all.

Susan and James; thank you for all your support, input, and leadership this year.

Thank you to Stephanie and Bruce for having my back each time I would reach out for help.

We are a diverse group of individuals with a true commitment to St. James and look forward to serving the committee and our church for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pike, Clerk of Session, (Acting Chair, Worship and Sacraments Committee)

Clerk of Session Report 2022

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS – BY BAPTISM

January 2

Ava Lynn Judith Kelloway, daughter of Ashlea Ellen Elizabeth (Legge) Kelloway and Darrell Gerald Kelloway

May 22

Cole Cecil Thorne Kelly, son of Rebecca Miriam Thorne and Charles Anthony Kelly

August 21

Sophia Elisabeth St-Amand, daughter of Amanda Kristi Lewis and Eric Denis St-Amand

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

CONFIRMATIONS:

June 5

Keegan Ryan

Quentin Seal

Griffin Seal

June 19

Leah Smith

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

None

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS – BY TRANSFER

Marilyn Pardy

REMOVED BY TRANSFER

None

MARRIAGES

Adam Michael Power and Evan Andrew Duffy
George Randolph Martin and Sandra Bernice Abbott

September 24
November 4

CANDIDATE FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Katelyn Vardy

Christian Education Committee (CE)

The Christian Education Committee continued to meander the twists and turns of the new reality that society has embraced over the last three years. Fellowship is important to one's spiritual health and wellbeing and can have a powerful impact on one's faith. We could see that people were yearning to see each other again, connect with others, partake in activities and events outside their circle or just engage in something bigger than themselves. Yet not everyone was comfortable returning to in-person groups, activities, or forms of worship. Some preferred to continue accessing these offerings online, or only attend sporadically as they were able.

As a St. James Committee with a mandate to provide for "the educational needs of the congregation and to provide leadership so that all persons at each stage of their lives may know God as revealed in Jesus Christ," the focus of our mandate centers around people. Therefore, though our groups were but a shadow of our pre-covid activity, we began to restart our in-person gatherings, worship services, and small-group program while we continued to reach out to people in a virtual format.

Early in 2022 we knew that our traditional hosting (with the AOTS) of the annual Pancake Supper would be cancelled again this year. We have not been able to host this event since 2020 due to the concerns around large gatherings – though we eagerly anticipate being able to gather for this event once again in 2023!

Leading into Easter, we were able to offer the mid-week Lenten Service once again. Lent culminated in our annual Good Friday Walk which meandered through our church neighborhood. Easter Sunday brought us to the table once again for the Easter Egg Breakfast with a chocolate egg "hunt" through the Sanctuary. As the weather brightened and people began to gather in person, we hosted a coffee hour, Potluck & Games in June, and Potluck & Movie Night for Pride Week in July.

Though occasionally interrupted by Hurricanes and Snowstorms, Forest Church continued to gather year-round outdoors at various locations on the last weekend of each month. A traditional highlight of this gathering is the August bonfire on Middle Cove beach. This year, the regular group of attendees took time to find a meaningful representation of their gathering in the form of the name "Wild Light Spiritual Oasis."

Eager to relaunch some of our activities by the Autumn of 2022, we hosted a table at the "Welcome! Sunday Coffee Hour." Our display outlined the revamped Contemporary Service (previously held on Saturday afternoons, still available online) which has become Eventide. Eventide is held Sunday evenings at St. James with each week highlighting worship through a variety of styles of worship such as Contemporary Worship, Tapestry, The Sunday Table, and Taize. These rotating styles offer various forms of spiritual practices such as "Out of the Box" theological stories to inspire, Lectio Divina, meditative musical worship, or coming together for food and worship at the Sunday Table.

Tapestry is an Eventide Service that is inspired and crafted by the Young Adults Group and led by Rev. James Ravenscroft. Meeting at regular intervals throughout the year, they have been excited to contribute in a meaningful way to an expression of their faith.

The traditional Sunday School is also undergoing a reimagining where the Youth of St. James will find a more integrated role and participation in the Sunday morning service. This new look is evolving as we work to bring our youth back in person. We did reach some of our youth online this year as Confirmation classes resumed via Zoom. Hosted by Susan Sheppard DLM, we welcomed four of our youth Confirmed into the Congregation of St. James.

Participation in worship and fellowship through small groups was slow to pick up in person as people had adapted to the sheltered activities over the last 3 years. Only now are we beginning to see an upturn in interest and in person attendance. Groups such as the “Cross and Bean Book Club” and “Not-A-Bible Study” continued to meet periodically online. Groups such as the “Loose Threads Sewing Studio” and the “Ukulele Group” and “Ukulele Ensemble” once again met in person. As time goes on, more people are gradually venturing out to join or rejoin these activities.

It has been a journey! We thank you for standing by us and supporting our efforts to engage the church congregation and surrounding community. 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, our lead Minister Rev James Ravenscroft, as well as the wholehearted support of the Congregation, the Committees, Church Council.

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, thank you.

Pamela Norman

Diversity Committee

The day of our annual meeting is one day before our first affirming anniversary! Throughout our first year of being an affirming church, we started getting back on our feet again since the Covid-19 pandemic, and that saw the return of some of our favorite Diversity events. The most apparent of those was the return of the Diversity fair; this year's fair had ten community groups present to share what they do to promote diversity in our wider community. We, as a committee, hope to continue to grow this event in the coming years.

The biggest thing we did this year was painting the front steps of the church building; this was an inspiring and outward display of our commitment to becoming an affirming congregation. I have seen appreciation and joy for our steps over social media ever since they have been painted. They now show the broader community that we are a safe space and that we are not afraid to show it!

Going forward into this new year, we as the Diversity committee hope to start our work on creating a more inclusive space for all peoples, and we hope that if you, the congregation, have anything you would like to see, you would reach out to the committee and let us know!

Hannah Sheppard
Chair of Diversity

Young Adults Annual Report

A group of young adults has been regularly meeting with Rev. James since November 2021. We are slowly continuing to grow in numbers. Since last years report, we have been meeting in-person again as Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

We meet regularly to plan Tapestry services. Tapestry services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month. While it is open to all ages it is targeted towards young adults. We have also had movie nights, campfires, etc.

Kennedy Collins

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee met on a regular basis throughout the year. During this period, performance review evaluations were completed on the Lead Minister and the former Office Administrator, with other reviews underway. The Committee was also involved in the hiring process for both the Office Administrator and the summer student positions. Other Committee activities included the monitoring of Leave requests and enquiries regarding employee benefits. Thanks to Committee members Clyde Flight, David Adams, Barry Robbins and Verna Wroblewski for their involvement.

Respectfully Submitted
Heather Hickman - Committee Chair

Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERSHIP (2022)

The 2022 membership of the Board of Trustees of St. James United Church was comprised of: Leslie J. Dean (Chair); Rev. James Ravenscroft; Susan Sheppard LDM; Bruce Hunt (Resigned April 2022); and Clifford Smith and Donna Downey who were appointed Trustees in mid-2022.

PROPERTY OVERSIGHT

The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the St. James Church Council and the Property Committee of Council, is responsible for the oversight of the Congregation's church property; to ensure it is well maintained and adequately insured; and to interface with the Church Council and the Regional Council on capital improvements and the lease or sale of church property.

In December 2022, our Church Council renewed the lease on the former manse property at 10 Paton Place at \$1500 per month for another one-year period with ICNA Canada Relief. Council also entered into discussions with Kindred Works, the property development arm of the United Church of Canada, on potential development options for our church property. Council also considered a request in late 2022 for office space by Quadrangle, a local diverse gender organization.

MEMORIAL/TRUST FUNDS

The Board of Trustees is responsible for managing the Audrey Fillier Trust Fund and the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Trust Fund, both of which are externally restricted church funds. The Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Fund Oversight Committee liaises with the Board of Trustees on the Fund's ongoing administration.

As of December 31, 2022, the balance in the Audrey Fillier Trust Fund was \$7,868 and the balance in the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Fund was \$103,717. Both Funds are audited in conjunction with the annual audit of St. James United Church

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie J. Dean (Chair)

United Church Women (UCW)

By Betty Pilgrim (President) and Barbara Adams (Past Co-President)

In 2022, UCW had settled into its regularly scheduled monthly meetings that began in the previous year. The changes implemented in 2021 continued with meetings being held in the afternoon and a regular small attendance of 20 to 25 enthusiastic members.

Additionally, Sylvia Cole, one of our Co-Presidents moved to Nova Scotia for family reasons in the summer. Sylvia had been an active, contributing member and it is difficult to fill such responsible positions. It is sad to see our UCW membership declining but we stand strong and are committed to keeping UCW an important part of church life.

Our membership list reflects the declining general membership. In 2022, there were 28 regular members compared to 40 the previous year. Home membership remained much the same at 13 members. During 2022, we sadly lost Dorothy Hapgood, a long time and very active member of UCW. She is missed and our thoughts go out to her family.

In October, five members attended the East District Rally at Wesley United Church. It was the 60th Anniversary of UCW in 2022, however, our UCW did not hear of any special events.

There were a few changes in the officers in 2022. We were pleased to get all positions filled. Our Executive and conveners are as follows:

Executive

Past Co-President: Barbara Adams
President: Sylvia Cole, Betty Pilgrim
Recording Secretary: Sheliah Beckett
Treasurer: Donna Downey
Assistant Treasurer: Betty Patey
Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Baker
Honorary Member: Shirley Bursey

Committee Conveners

Flowers: Betty Winsor
Membership: Shirley Bursey
Social: Menetha Dyke, Betty Winsor, Shirley Downey
Visitation: Jean White
Church Council Representative: Ruth Baker
Finance Committee Representative: Vacant

For the first time since 2019, UCW held its Annual Fall Sale. Everyone was uncertain about how things would go but put their usual effort into making the sale a success. It paid off and the sale brought in \$4500.00. The UCW donated \$5000.00 (included funds taken in earlier) to the Church general operating expenses and \$500.00 to M&S. UCW also had a Bake Sale at the Bethlehem Bazaar, and we were able to make an additional contribution to the church.

In May, we held our Spring Dinner, and we had a Christmas Dinner. It was downscaled slightly and included only UCW members. Both dinners were catered by Pay and Sue who always do an excellent job.

We always welcome guests to attend our meetings held the second Monday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

A.O.T.S Men's Club (As One That Serves)

The Men's Club resumed regular meetings on March 18, 2022, after an extended break due to the presence of Covid and its effect on our Church Community. It was decided that our meetings would be held mid-day on the third Wednesday of each month with the usual meal and program topics of interest to our membership. Our active numbers are in the range of 18-20 with 12-14 in attendance each meeting.

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of two lifelong members, Albert Styles and Phil Saunders. Both had supported the efforts of our Club for many years and had given invaluable service to St. James.

Contact was made with the staff at Pleasant View Towers with the view of continuing our monthly church service. We were informed that our services would not be required, and Church services would be conducted by the Clergy on staff.

In total, 6 luncheon meetings were held during 2022. Members assisted in the preparation of the Easter Sunday Breakfast for the congregation. With the help of volunteers from the congregation, we were able to successfully arrange the ever-popular Fresh Fish and Brewis Dinner. The event was well attended, and we are currently planning another for the spring of 2023. Members also assisted with the Bethlehem Market by organizing a table of new and gently used items for sale. Members of the club also assisted with the ushering during the month of December.

We are hopeful that things will soon be back to normal, and we can continue to be of service to St. James.

Clyde Flight
President

St. James AOTS Men's Service Club

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

For year ended December 31, 2022

Bank Balance as of January 1, 2021			1,250.60
Revenues			
Dinner meetings			
Revenues	568.00		
Expenditures	<u>330.43</u>		
NET		237.57	
Easter Sunday Breakfast			
Revenues	101.00		
Expenditures	<u>46.00</u>		
NET		55.00	
Fish Dinner			
Revenues	2,946.00		
Expenditures	<u>832.10</u>		
NET		2,113.90	
Membership Dues	210.00		
Donations	<u>200.00</u>		
TOTAL REVENUE		2,816.47	
EXPENDITURES			
Donation - Church	3,000.00		
- Memorial Fund	.00		
Guest Speakers	100.00		
Kitchen Supplies/Equipment	26.45		
Sunday Morning Coffee	9.00		
Bank Service Charges/Cheques	15.75		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3,151.20	
Revenues over (under) expenditures			-334.73
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2022			915.8

Administration and Communications

2022 has continued to challenge us as the Covid-19 virus continued to limit social gatherings for the first several months. Once the mandates were all lifted, there was an onslaught of activities and fundraisers. Life at St. James had begun to rebound and there was so much to take part in. We had so much to advertise but were more than happy to do so because it was the first sign of normalcy any of us had seen in so long.

Live streaming continued to be an integral part of our worship. It was realized previously that improvements were needed, so updated equipment was installed during the summer. We are happy to report that the quality of our online worship services has improved but we do recognize that some tweaking may still be required.

We thank the install team for installing our equipment and to Jake Thompson for his continued hard work and diligence to providing this option for our congregation. We also saw some staff changes early in the year. Our Office Administrator, Tracy Bishop, had resigned. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Shortly thereafter, Stephanie Harnum came on board as our new Office Administrator. She has fit right in and is doing an amazing job. Additionally, we had a summer student, Michael Wroblewski join us for 8 weeks. Michael was an exceptional worker, and we were very lucky to have him to help us out.

The Visitor, which encompasses all things St. James, continued to be distributed this year. It is a big task, and I would not have been able to do it without volunteers. I send huge thanks to Glenda Winsor, Linda Babstock, Sheilah Beckett, and Jean White for their continued time and effort to getting the newsletters printed, assembled, and ready for distribution. I also send my gratitude and thanks to all our zone captains who get them all delivered. I also cannot forget Glen Warren, the editor. Thank you for your time and patience in producing the newsletter. Without you all, it would not be possible.

I look forward to what 2023 has in store and with the help of an amazing committee, we will be ready for whatever it brings. Thank you to Robin Bartlett, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, and Karen Brown for your continued dedication and contributions to this committee. I appreciate you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Adams, Acting Chair

Regional Representation

The First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council meeting was held on May 13-15, 2022, via Zoom.

Theme: Presence and Hope – Health and Wellness

Theme speaker, Adam Hanley, Program Coordinator, Minister Personnel, Vitality, General Council.

Adam shared a slideshow presentation which defined wellness as our physical health and is something that can be measured as opposed to wellbeing as how we are doing. We can consider Four factors: everyday happiness, resilience, self-integrity or authenticity and thriving, or values and meaning to our lives.

We lament struggles with Mental Health, a sense of uncertainty, the Pandemic, those we have lost, financial losses, and uncertainty in our communities of faith. It has not been an easy journey. We yearn to flourish. Our focus on health and wellness in the church includes a responsibility for health, joy, and excellence for ministry personnel. This theme is guided by the scripture Mark 12:28-31, which refers to heart, soul, mind, and strength. Each day, take time for physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health and seek additional help whenever necessary.

Executive Minister: Faith Marsh-MacCuish challenged members of the Regional Council to consider the words of Margaret Wheatly in her book *“Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future”* and ask, what’s possible?

In 2019, on a trip to the Philippines and after meeting with church partners, it reminded us that we all have gifts to share, and how we can ask what is possible and come to be the people that God calls us to be. The seeds of love that we plant now will last long after we are gone.

Let us make a commitment to be bold disciples and to be courageous in living the way we are called to be.

Rev. Amanda Barnes is the next president elect of FDEE Regional Council

Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher is the president.

The fifth meeting of FDEE Regional Council to be held May 12-14, 2023, virtually.

Ruth Baker
Regional Representative

Property Committee Report 2022

This Property Committee report presents an overview for the operations and maintenance activities for the 2022 year, and the actions we have taken to preserve our assets using our own human resource expertise, with the exception for the liability requirement for certified contractors, and that of professional cleaners required for Coronavirus variants and other safety requirements. The committee's objective this past year was to seek to uphold the budget approved by Council plus address any special requirements identified under the current Coronavirus guidelines. No major projects were planned or carried out for 2022.

The property budget for a number of items was managed to reflect a potential revenue reduction, and thus the potential of an adjustment within same... The oil/heating cost this year was within the approved budget. The heating set points were reduced due to the building not being used to its full capacity for services and rentals. The repairs and maintenance budget was increased slightly to take advantage of budget reallocations. St James incurs a cost of approx. \$9000 each year for insurance.

The old manse (10 Paton Street) did generate significant full year rental revenue in 2022. The plan for the Paton Street manse for 2022 was to continue for annual rental to generate an income to support church operations. The old manse (10 Paton St) was leased to the NL chapter of ICNA Canada Relief for 2022 with a renewed lease for 2023. Hopefully both parties can continue the agreement into future years.

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

Due to the past requirements during Coronavirus, the practicing a safe indoor environment, the church pews, sanctuary, bathrooms, offices and print rooms were all cleaned after each service by a professional cleaning company.

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 limits vehicles to the parking lot for St. James funerals and other special functions where appropriate.

The Property Committee also thank those who assisted with the planting flower beds this past year. This year St. James replanted the flower garden with perennials at the entrance to the office and two of the other gardens on the west side. Thanks to the Wedgewood family for looking after the two flower gardens again this year at the front of the church on Elizabeth Avenue.

The property budget for 2023 will give consideration for inflation, normal operation and maintenance and be sufficient to keep the operations moving forward in a positive 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 and its related piping is a growing concern and will have a hefty price tag if the equipment becomes an issue, plus the copper steeple and parking lot are showing their age. Minor works this year did include, repair to two door frames, basement window repairs, and concrete foundation wall repairs. It is anticipated that an

inspection of the Copper steeple and the West large triangular stained glass window wood framework will be inspected in 2023 to determine what repairs are required.

The committee's goals for 2023 are as follows:

- To maintain the integrity of our St. James assets to the standards that will provide safe, long-term viability for staff, congregational members and external rental users, and address any and all Coronavirus/variants safety recommendations.
- To seek any funding/grants available to assist with energy conservation such as converting the oil to electric, LED lighting, Mini split if feasible.
- To research and remain current on new products and equipment used in the maintenance and operation of the buildings and to seek our own congregational resources to assist with related work requiring attention.
- To look at other avenues to support the financial efforts of the church through other long-term programs or initiatives.
- To continue to have the Rental committee seek additional rentals and space that may be available.
- To assist with the preparation of the annual operational budget and provide input into any minor/major capital expenditures required for the buildings within the next 5 years.

I would like to thank the direct members of the Property Committee, Bruce Winsor for ongoing operations and maintenance and Stephanie for assistance, booking and invoicing, rental schedules, parking lot administration and other property related requirements along with the regular duties.

Also, I would like to thank all others that helped the property committee when called on to assist and others who identify any items that need attention in the world of property management. 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 congregational members for their continuous support complimented with our own St. James Ministry, Chair of Council/Council members who keep us all informed through long hours of discussions in the past year and as such, also assisted in property requirements with concerns and or recommendations /solutions.

Also, I would like to thank Les Dean and the Board of trustees for their guidance and oversight from time to time.

The Property Committee are always looking for new members, either to serve on a separate task or just for an individual repair and for an opportunity that has been identified.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Legge, Chair Property

Stewardship Committee

Give Thanks, Invite, Inspire.

Stewardship has two principal roles: to attract people and engage them in our church's life and work, and to raise money so that our church can continue to operate and serve its congregants and to reach out to help those in our community who need it. We hope to inspire every congregant to contribute to our community in some way and to engage new people. We greatly appreciate everyone's contributions and want to better show our appreciation to you!

Stewardship Campaign

We had planned to begin a large, multi-part stewardship campaign in the autumn based on the U.C.'s "Called to be the Church" program, which would have three components: financial, community and environmental. On September 25, we kicked things off with our "Welcome Back" Sunday service and an enjoyable lunch which had a reasonably diverse turn-out by our congregation, neighbors, university students and immigrants. After that, the planning and implementation of our campaign continued. However, in December, further implementation was placed on hold following the Council's decision to devise a new and better Mission Articulation Plan.

Fundraisers:

Valentine's Day Take-out Dessert fundraiser, February 12 raised approximately \$587. Due to Public Health's Covid-19 restrictions, we once again could not gather to enjoy friendship, music and delicious desserts at our very popular Valentine's Day fundraiser. Instead, we sold delicious take-out dessert packages with a slice each of a chocolate ganache cake, and a lemon cream and cranberry, sponge cake for curb-side pick-up, or delivery as needed. Special thanks to Glen Warren, our specialty baker, for donating his supplies and talents!.

Take-out Hot Chicken Dinner fundraiser, April 30 raised \$874
Scott Hillyer, owner of Coffee Matters and his staff, prepared a tasty stuffed chicken breast dinner with vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, and a small dessert for \$18, for curb-side pick-up, or delivery as needed. We sold approximately 200 meals.

Memorial Hymn Sing, May 15 -- Congregants contributed \$3,175
There was a nice selection of hymns with a couple of different options. The St. James Guitar Group and our Music Director, Amy Dalziel provided the music.

Bethlehem Bazaar, December 2 raised approximately \$172.
As a Christmas community event and fundraiser with invited vendors selling their goods, a café, a Christmas sing-along concert with the St. James Guitar Group and members of Newfound Sound Chorus, and a fishpond and bowling alley for children.

Memorial Christmas Tree, December 19-31 raised \$1,685.
After last year's cancelation of Christmas services, we gathered in-person for our Christmas Eve services and re-lit our Memory Christmas Tree in celebration of the lives of our loved ones.

Purdy's Chocolate Sales at Christmas netted some \$400.

Community Outreach Events Our committee collected many donations plus \$150 for Social Outreach from our congregation Food Aid Centre and for Stella's Circle again this year. Your generosity was appreciated! St. James' Stewardship Committee -- Paul Walsh, Jean Thompson, Karen Brown, Susan Sheppard, Rev. James and I – express our deep gratitude to our many reliable, generous volunteers and contributors who donated their time, talent and treasures, and to all congregants for your continued participation and support of St. James United Church. We wish you all a pleasant, peaceful, and healthy 2023-24!

Thank you again and God bless you all!

Robin Bartlett
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Bridges to Hope 2022 Annual Report to our Supporting Congregations

Once again, the Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Bridges to Hope by our founding and supporting congregations. Our core mission remains an important one, *to reduce the effects of poverty on individuals and families through access to essential food, and other programs that help empower our clients.*

Operations: It's been another year of operations under the cloud of a pandemic, but with gradual return to more "normal" conditions. Our invaluable and loyal volunteers are back in action, in the pantry as well as the kitchen, which is a huge relief for our staff and a boost in morale. We are not yet at the point of having clients enter the building, given health and safety concerns, but our goal remains to move to a more customized and interactive service going forward, providing more dignity for our clients and lowering wastage through providing the most suitable food for all.

Staff: We have had some significant changes in structure in 2022, with Jody Williams becoming our Executive Director, and Lesley Burgess becoming our Operations Manager. Raylene Roche, as Intake Coordinator, and Emily Noel as Food Support Worker round out an extremely strong and dedicated team. Jody's ability to focus primarily on public awareness, funding applications, donor relationships, and strategic initiatives has already led to increased support from individuals and businesses in 2022. Of course, this has been a year where inflation, particularly in terms of groceries, has had a huge impact on our clients, and also on our cost of operations.

Demand: The number of clients coming to Bridges to Hope has been increasing steadily through 2022, primarily as a result of rises in the cost of living from inflation. We provided support to over 11,000 people in 2022. In order to assist those in poor paying day jobs, we started evening openings in the Fall, which are being well attended.

Higher needs and demand have been apparent across the food support system in St. John's and the Province as a whole, as is evident most nights on the news. It is expected that closures of some of the existing food banks in the region will see a transfer of clients to our organization, especially as we pride ourselves in being open and supportive of all, regardless of religion, race, status or location.

Programs: Bridges to Hope continue to offer very essential programs and services. In addition to normal food support services, we had our Bags to School program in late summer, which distributed 460 Back Packs full of quality curriculum based, age appropriate, school supplies to students of all grades. We distributed 2,021 Smart Snack Kits with healthy after-school snacks for school age children, and through our annual Christmas program, funded by Rotary, we distributed \$75 gift cards for groceries from Colemans for 343 of our clients.

Support: Bridges to Hope remains very grateful for support from our founding churches, during universally challenging times. We remain an Outreach Ministry of the United Church of Canada, with financial assistance from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church, as well as the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. And of course, donations and volunteerism from congregational members remain crucial to our ongoing mission.

Individual and corporate donations are a critical part of our funding, in addition to grants and funding from community service groups. The people of our province, and beyond, remain faithful

supporters, even as the costs of living increase. Bridges to Hope have seen good response to appeals for regular monthly donations, which helps even out the financial support stream through the year.

2022 saw a resumption in food drives, with Covid measures easing, as well as planning for significant fundraising events (such as the Songwriter's Circle event, March 16th with Music NL, Gower St. United Church...Tickets are available on the Bridges website www.bridgestohope.ca - mark your calendar!)

The Future: Bridges to Hope has completed strategic planning for the next 3 to 5 years. We will be building upon and enhancing our core mission offerings, while adding new services and elements. We will be building new collaborative relationships with similarly-minded groups. A particular area of focus is seniors, and those with accessibility issues. We are, and will be, working with other not-for-profit organizations, as well as advocating to government, to continue and improve these crucial support services.

Submitted by:

Ewan Cumming

Board Chair, Member from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church