

Bells Corners United Church 2016 Annual Report



Bells Corners United Church

REJOICE, RENEW, RESPOND, REACH OUT

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Office Information Bells Corners United Church

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CDM	Lorrie Lowes	lloves@storm.ca lorrie@bcuc.org	820-8103
Music Director	Abe TeGrotenhuis	music@bcuc.org	820-8103
Office Administrators	Ellen Boynton	office@bcuc.org	820-8103
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2016 CHURCH BOARD

Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal
Co - Chair	Sue Morrison
Co - Chair	Jordan Berard
Past Chair	Denis Watson
Chair elect	Bill Johnson
Secretary	Norm Pound
Ministry & Personnel	John Burrows (to June) James Eaton
Financial Management	Bill Johnson
Members at Large	Jordan Berard
Presbytery Reps	Nicole Beaudry Desna Sulway Sue Morrison Joyce Williams
Youth Consultation	Ellie Crow
Young Adult Consultation	Lorrie Lowes

SUNDAY SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Worship Service at 10:00 am with Youth Group, Sunday school programs and Crib Nursery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Crib Nursery:	0, 2 year olds
Preschool:	3, 4 year olds
Beginners:	5, 6 year olds
Primary:	Grades 2, 3
Junior/Intermediate:	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Youth Group:	Grade 9 & higher; confirmation & post-confirmation

Sacraments and Other Special Services

Communion: 4 to 5 times per year.

Baptism: Held during Sunday service. The Minister meets with the families involved and an orientation session is held.

Joining the Church: Joining the Church family is accomplished by the following methods: Transfer of Membership On profession of faith, after attendance at confirmation classes or discussion with the Minister, by, or in the case of inactive membership, by reaffirmation of faith.

Weddings: Couples will meet with the Minister twice during the period of preparation and may attend Marriage Preparation Course offered by the Presbytery.

Funerals: Families may have funerals or memorial services in the church or the Minister will conduct the service in the Funeral Home.

Pastoral & Spiritual Care: Visitation of members and friends of the church, in hospital, retirement homes and long-term care facilities or home by the Minister, CDM and Friendly Visitors.

Pastoral Counseling: The Minister and the Congregational Designated Minister may offer pastoral counseling as required.

Youth Confirmation: One of the high points in the worship life of our congregation is Confirmation Sunday, when the new members publicly confess their faith and are welcomed to the fellowship of our church. Confirmands meet to explore issues of faith and church life as background to their decision. For more info please speak to the Minister or CDM.

Scouts/Venturers: Wednesday at 6:30 pm

UP (United People): The Youth Group meets Sunday mornings and participates in monthly activities.

CHOIRS

- **Christian Generation Singers (CGS):** Kindergarten - Grade 5, Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.
- **Bell Canto:** Grade 6 and up, Thursday at 6:40 pm
- **Senior Choir:** Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- **Ladies Choir:** Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Men's Chorus:** Sunday mornings

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Unit 1 Leader: Rotational; Meet from time to time

Unit 2 Leader: Ellen Boynton, 828-3820 Meet second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. in the homes of members.

Unit 3 Leader: Jean Watson, 829-3463 Meet the second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. in the homes of members.

Unit 4 Leader: Joan Hicks, 820-3276 Meet the second Monday of each month, evenings in the homes of members.

Adult Learning: A variety of groups announced throughout the year which meet to develop fellowship and biblical awareness and social concerns. This includes a weekly Lectionary Group.

Adult Dancing Spirit: Liturgical dance group meets monthly on Sunday evenings at the church.

Friendship Club: A gathering for seniors. Meets every Monday for lunch at noon and an afternoon program.

Coffee & Friends: Thursdays 9:15 - 11:15 a.m. Fall & Winter sessions are held, each eight weeks long. It offers a varied program to help you meet some new friends, learn some new skills, resolve some problems, belong to a group of caring people.

Men's Club: Meets once a month for an evening meal and guest speaker and for coffee mornings.

Book Club: Meets on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month.

Victoria's Quilts: Meet on the last Wednesday of the month in the evening and every second Monday afternoon.

Minister's Message

Another Annual General Meeting has come. This is the congregational gathering when we look back at what BCUC has accomplished in the past year and may still be doing in the future. As always BCUC continues to be a vibrant and active presence in the larger community we seek to serve in Christ's name. We remain a place of worship where we can be ourselves and people supported and cared for by that same Divine Love. Our building continues to be a hub of community activities. Our congregation works to live up to its mission statement: to rejoice, renew, respond and reach out!

My sincerest thanks and "two thumbs up" go to the church staff – Lorrie, Abe, Ellen and Nancy that are so committed in offering their time, talents and treasures beyond the call of duty. I also extend my gratitude to board members, committee members, the many volunteers young and old, as they serve behind the scenes which most people never know about on any given Sunday morning, weekday or for special events. If you were to add up all the time and extra hours they put in and paid them accordingly, the church budget would have to be quadrupled!

I remain committed and steadfast to the ministry I have been called to in this congregation which is grounded in faith and love. It is a blessing to experience vibrant worship services on most Sunday mornings with music that soars and relationships that bind. I pray that the messages I delivered from the pulpit spoke to you in personal, theological, educational or prophetic ways. When I've visited you in the hospital or retirement places or shared a private prayer in the sanctuary of your home, I hope that part of God's care and healing love has been shared. When I lead Bible studies and learning events, I trust that you have been engaged and inspired in exploring many themes and topics for your spiritual and personal growth and nurture.

Despite surveys that show a decline in organized religion across Canada, BCUC remains strong and a viable presence in this part of Ottawa. In a world interconnected by technology and cyberspace, what we share together here may act as a reminder that as God's people, we need to continue to be in community with one another. I'm sure you will agree with me that BCUC has gone through periods where the boundaries and expectations around church polity, leadership and volunteering, among other issues over the past year have been remarkably challenging. Right alongside that reality, however, is a powerful and compelling stream of stories, affirmations, actions and testimonies that we are moving towards renewal and revitalization. I am heartened to know that the EDGE initiative on Family Ministry is moving forward in church life, even as we struggle with deeply embedded differences of opinions,

experiences and beliefs. As people of faith, we must be committed to acknowledging our true selves and to allow the truth of others to be affirmed and celebrated. This is my hopeful wish as we embark on another year of church life.

Thank you for your faithful support and encouragement. If there is something that I've missed or lacked in my ministry, let me know. If there is something that you've appreciated and enjoyed, let me know. On behalf of Ken, Justin and Jacob, I extend to you our deepest gratitude and appreciation.

Quoting from Judith Campbell's new book, Walking between the Worlds, I offer you this Celtic prayer of affirmation and gratitude as we move forward in 2017:

"I open to the Divine, life-affirming energy of nature's power; beauty, harmony, and light so I can absorb and reveal her abundance in everything I do, with love and gratitude in my heart."

Blessings as we continue in our journey together.

Rev. Kim

Congregational Designated Minister

I have been at BCUC for more than three years now... and I'm still waiting to find the "slow time" in the life of this church! I think I have to concede and admit there is no such thing. What an incredibly busy, vibrant place this is! The week begins with choirs tuning and people bustling around to get things ready for worship on Sunday morning, a service full of meaningful words, great music, wonderful readers and excited children. People stay to enjoy coffee, tea, and fellowship long after the service ends – and then many gather at nearby restaurants to continue the conversations over lunch! Even if Sunday is the only day you are able to be in the building, you can feel the spirit of an active, committed congregation. But it doesn't end there! Monday brings Friendship Club, Tuesday Lectionary group, Wednesday Ladies' choir, Thursday the children's choirs and the Senior choir, Friday sacred drummers – and all around these scheduled weekly events are committee meetings, volunteers and supporters dropping by, UCW members baking up a storm in the kitchen, people taking care of financial details and building maintenance, dancers and labyrinth keepers, and... If you've ever tried to book a room for a meeting, you'll know what I mean! Where many church buildings sit empty and silent from Sunday to Sunday, BCUC is always a bustling place, day and night. It is what a church is meant to be – a place of worship and welcome, of support and joy, full of opportunities to serve, to learn, to share gifts and even burdens. I feel so blessed to be here!

You will read of the many exciting things that have happened in the life of our church this year throughout this report. We have much to celebrate! I hope it will inspire you to consider joining a new activity or committee.

This past year we have worked with EDGE to do some visioning for the future. We know from our work that it is vital that we attract new young families to our congregation. We have heard that what we are already doing is great – but we need to get the word out into the community. We'd also like to keep improving and adding to the activities, programming, and services that we now offer. Our Sunday School is growing. We have 30 kids registered in our Sunday School and Youth Group – and 9 of our youth have signed up for confirmation classes! We've had excellent response to our new "home-grown" curriculum. Erin and I have been excited to offer lessons and activities tailored to the kids we know and to the life of our church. We have also tried to make it as easy as possible for our wonderful volunteer teachers. What an amazing group of caring and dedicated folks!

Every organization has things to worry about – budgets and bills, maintenance and upgrades, needs and wishes. We will deal with many of these at the Annual Meeting – but don't forget to celebrate the wonderful, positive things that are happening every day at BCUC. It truly is a place of joy and blessing!

Shalom,
Lorrie

Church Board

The Church Board met regularly on a monthly basis throughout 2016 (except in July and August). Some of the projects and issues the Church Board focused its attention on in 2016 are noted here.

The visioning and planning process we had initiated in 2015 through the EDGE team was brought to a conclusion in the fall of 2016. We are now poised to pursue the vision that emerged from this process, a vision of renewed Family Ministry at BCUC. A report from the BCUC EDGE team is found elsewhere in this Annual Report. Many of the activities reported in this Annual Report by BCUC committees and groups attest to the value that BCUC places on ministry with families of all sorts.

In addition to the many activities of the Property Management Activity aimed at the ongoing maintenance and operation of our church building and property, some special projects have been initiated or completed in 2016. The Chancel Renovation Committee presented its report and recommendations early in the year, and a congregational meeting held on May 15 approved the acceptance of proposed chancel renovations. Thanks to an earlier bequest Donald Williamson Pounder made to honour his friend and our member Jim Gardner, plus additional funds raised by the congregation, these renovations were completed over the summer and the new chancel was dedicated on Oct. 30. A significant gift was also received from Jack Calderwood in memory of his late wife Joyce Calderwood, former BCUC music director and founder of the Ladies' Choir, and with this gift and other available funds a new directed fund was established, and plans for a refurbishment of the Shalom Room were initiated in 2016.

During 2016, we developed criteria and procedures for the allocation of funds from the generous unencumbered 2015 bequest to BCUC from the estate of the late Irene Stinson, a lifelong member of this congregation. Part of the bequest has been set up as a loan to the BCUC Operating Fund, but the majority of the funds are still available for projects to honour Irene's memory and enhance the life and programs of BCUC. Committees and groups of the congregation have submitted suggestions, and at the congregation's 2017 Annual Meeting a subcommittee of the Board will present a multi-year plan for the disbursement of the funds from this bequest to address the identified needs of our BCUC congregation and community.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the BCUC congregation, a motion was passed authorizing a review of the recently implemented governance structure of BCUC to assess how well it is working and what problems may need to be addressed. The BCUC Board has provided relevant documents and participated in discussions with the chair of the Presbytery Organization of Pastoral Charges Team, Rev. Ed Gratton. While the congregation's board structure does meet the requirements of the UCC Manual for the governing body of a congregation, Rev. Gratton has made some suggestions for small changes that could be introduced that may resolve ambiguities and improve communications. These will be addressed by the Board and brought to the congregation in the form of a revised BCUC Handbook in 2017. During 2016, the Board took steps to improve communications with and among committees and groups of

BCUC, including collecting and circulating monthly the minutes and activity reports from BCUC committees/groups, and beginning a regular practice of inviting one or two committee representatives each month to attend Board meetings to talk about their programs and plans.

Sue Morrison and Jordan Berard
Co-Chairs, BCUC Church Board

EDGE Team

Confronting BCUC's Challenges

In 2016, Bells Corners United Church completed a contract with EDGE to assess the particular challenges and needs of our congregation moving forward, and to devise new and exciting ways to attract and retain new congregants. The decision to engage the services of the EDGE network was made by the congregation out of an awareness of challenges that cannot be ignored and that will have an overwhelming immediate impact on our congregation in the coming years: particularly an aging core of volunteers and financial donors.

How EDGE Helped

Those of us who have served on Church committees know that we often spend a great deal of time discussing problems and dreaming of solutions, but we rarely act on them. Under the guidance of our facilitator, Bob Richards, the EDGE program forced us to act on our ideas rather than just talk about them. We experimented, forged connections in the community, and devised realistic and measurable solutions to many of the challenges that we face as a congregation.

Many of the activities that our EDGE Team performed in 2016 (listed below) were organized and facilitated by Bob Richards. To be clear, BCUC likely could not complete most of these activities without Bob's facilitation and encouragement – hiring the services of EDGE was an essential investment in the future of our church.

In 2016, the BCUC EDGE Team:

- **Surveyed our young families** to find out what they enjoyed the most about BCUC and what we could be doing better to keep them engaged.
- Undertook **appreciative inquiries** with many groups in our church (seniors, children, in-betweeners, etc.) to find out what their particular needs and challenges are.
- Hosted a series of **roundtables** with representatives from various faith- and community-based organizations in Bells Corners and the surrounding area. These roundtables were an enormous success and BCUC was lauded for bringing these groups together to talk about the very specific family-related needs of the community in Bells Corners and to brainstorm ideas, make connections, and better pool our resources. Our leadership role in this initiative is something we should all be every proud of.
- Held a roundtable with our **senior members** to find out what they think would help bring their children, grandchildren, neighbours, friends, etc. through our doors on a regular basis.

- Held a remarkably successful **Homecoming service** in October. This service was created in response to the feedback that we received from our congregation and community through our appreciative inquiries, roundtables, and team brainstorming. The service also coincided with the conclusion of a major renovation to our chancel which has made it a much more multi-purpose, community-friendly space.

Our EDGE Team

Our EDGE team was an eclectic group of church leaders and volunteers, and included members of all ages, veterans and rookies of committee work, members of the Board and various committees, and other interested parties. We also received full support and attendance at our meetings from members of our ministry team.

Many thanks to the following EDGE Team members:

- Alan Bentley
- Jordan Berard (Chair)
- Barbara Bole
- Olly Chuchryk
- Margaret-Anne Clough
- Bill Johnson
- Lorrie Lowes
- John MacFarlane
- Jim Maxwell
- Sue Morrison
- Monica Peck
- Jan Pound
- Neville Reed
- Bob Richards (Facilitator)
- Rev. Kim Vidal
- Denis Watson
- Mary Wright

Conclusion: Towards Family Ministry

In 2017, the EDGE Team will facilitate the creation and development of the **Family Ministry Advisory Team**. Please see the 2017 BCUC Activity Plan for more information.

We are currently in the process of completing a **Final Report** which will summarize and provide specific examples of the information, activities, and feedback detailed above. Upon completion, the report will be made available to the congregation in electronic form or in printed form (available in the office).

The EDGE process has been a very rewarding one for the BCUC community. It has helped us generate achievable goals for our future and given us a definitive path to follow for the coming years.



Worship/Christian Education Committee

Our purpose is to promote group participation in spiritual activities and meaningful worship; to develop knowledge of God, to provide instruction in the Christian faith and to promote participation in programs for spiritual growth and Christian living. The worship part of the activity relates to regular Sunday worship, special seasonal and other services of worship and prayer.

Some highlights, besides our regular Sunday morning services, included:

- 1) The April 15-17 hosting of the second International Biblical Drumming Festival, organized by Rev. Betty Lynn Schwab. The Biblical Drummers joined us for worship on April 17.
- 2) On June 19 we celebrated Aboriginal Sunday with guest speaker, Jennifer Henry from KAIROS. Her theme was Truth and Reconciliation.
- 3) On July 24 a large number of members of Rev. Kim's family, who were enjoying a reunion, joined us for worship. They provided uplifting music and a tasty luncheon – both appreciated and enjoyed by all.
- 4) Homecoming Sunday, October 30, the day we dedicated our new chancel, was such a successful venture that the last Sunday in October 2017 has been declared 'Homecoming Sunday'.
- 5) November 6 was Celebration Hymn-Sing and it has become an annual event. Next date is February 12, 2017. Proceeds from the previous one have enabled us to purchase forty pew cushions.
- 6) Remembrance Sunday, the Veteran's Breakfast and the skirl of Denis Watson's bagpipes are also a highlight in the year. This year had an added dimension as we were joined by sacred dancers from Ottawa, Toronto and Boston who attended a weekend's sacred dance retreat at BCUC facilitated by Helena Froehlich.

The Christian Education portion of this committee plans, organizes, coordinates and promotes the education program of the congregation, activities such as Sunday School, confirmation classes, support for the UP (Youth) group, midweek and other study groups, workshops dealing with specific issues, maintains education resources such as libraries of books, videos, CD's, DVD's etc. to be used by the congregation.

Some of this year's highlights included: 1) The April 23 Eco-Fair/Kindness Day – a joint venture in celebration of Earth Day, organized by Barbara Eade. This is an all-ages event which attracts both BCUC congregants and members of the wider Bells Corners community. 2) Hazel Smith and Doyle Smith, two young adults from BCUC representing the Ottawa Presbytery Youth and young Adults went on a May Mission Trip to Zambia. 3) All Sunday school curriculum was prepared by Lorrie Lowes and Erin Berard to meet specific BCUC needs. It is much appreciated, especially by Sunday school teachers. 4) In June the closing of Sunday school plus a BBQ and in September 'Welcome Back and Family Celebration' headed by Monica Peck, were much appreciated. 5) BCUC Advent Study 2016 entitled 'Wisdom Calls' prepared by Janice Maclean was led by Rev. Kim and Lorrie.

The Worship/CE Committee is made up of a remarkable and talented group of people. They are:

- 1) Rev. Kim, our hard working ultra-organized pastor who leads so proficiently in worship and teaches us with her progressive thinking sermons. She also leads the lectionary group each Tuesday among her many other duties.

- 2) Lorrie Lowes, our hard working congregational designated minister, who we see almost every Sunday during the Young at Heart time. The curriculum which she and Erin have provided is much appreciated, especially by the S.S. teachers. It has also eliminated the cost of purchasing curriculum from an outside source. She also attends and participates in lectionary, among her other duties.
 - 3) Abe TeGrotenhuis, our talented music director whose ability at the organ, piano and other instruments adds much to our Sunday worship. Abe's AV expertise is also much appreciated. We are so grateful for all that he does in our midst.
 - 4) Ellen Boynton, our efficient Secretary, keeps us all on our toes with gentle reminders of things which need to be done. Of course she is active in choir, UCW and so much more
 - 5) Erin Berard – you have seen and heard her talent whether playing the organ, piano or flute, singing in the choir and leading our junior choirs plus helping with S.S. curriculum.
 - 6) Kim Culley, leads the 'UP group' along with her husband Alex. They also supervise excursions and outside youth activities.
 - 7) Tamara Glanville, heads up Camp Awesome at BCUC each summer as well as teaching S.S.
 - 8) Ian Howes, a choir member, lectionary attendee and one who played a very active role in the chancel project
 - 9) Eithne Barker, a choir member of both Senior and Ladies plus an active pastoral care person who also attends lectionary.
 - 10) Sue Morrison, Board co-chair, S.S. teacher, lectionary attendee, Presbytery rep and someone upon whom we can count for so much.
- All we need is a Chairperson, not an acting one. I will continue on the committee. Who wouldn't want to work with a group such as just mentioned.

There are so many people who play such a vital part in the life of our church. Two who must be mentioned are our most efficient office administrators – Nancy Meyers and Ellen Boynton. Thank you! Thank you! And thank you to all who help in so many ways as we travel together on our faith journey.

David Donaldson

Music @ BCUC – 2016 report

What a great year in music it has been!

Here's a rundown of all the glorious activity in 2016:

- The Senior Choir helped lead worship most Sundays, preparing and offering about 70 songs through the year
- The Ladies Choir sang about once per month and for the Friendship Club on Feb 1st
- "Gathering music" has provided more opportunity to sing along and introduce new songs
- The Men's Chorus also sang in service Mar 6th and Oct 16th
- Sunday Night Lite services began in February with participation from Abe, Erin and others
- Hazel Smith sang solos four times on April 3rd, April 24th, Oct 30th and the May 1st spring concert
- April 10th "orchestra" brought together Erin, Leslie W, Daniel, Angela, Victoria, Phoenix & Raven
- Sacred drummers and guest Miranda Rondeau were a beautiful addition on April 17th
- May 1st "Merry Month of May" concert featured all our choirs, special guests Village Voyces from Spencerville, Erin Berard, Daniel Parker, Hazel Smith, Brenda Griffith, Vernon, Keith, Phoenix & Raven and even the TeGrotenhuis family. It raised about \$700 for the general fund.
- The Ladies Choir Sang Out May 4th at Bridlewood Trails & June 8th at Stillwater Creek

- Thank you Carolyn Whitley, Sandra Dean and Erin Berard for providing music leadership during summer break in the midst of chancel renovations.
- Thank you for special summer music from: Erin & Leslie C, Vernon, Angela (trombone), Vidal Family, Eithne & Charles, Virginia (piano), Bell Canto (Orion's farewell), Keith, Ellen & Jane.
- Sandra Dean has joined me up front since the organ relocation on a number of occasions to accompany and play organ/piano duets. She even sang a solo in early September!
- Homecoming service on Oct 30th was a great addition this year with huge effort put in by many. Thanks to the "band": Kim, Erin, Leslie, Daniel, Wendy & Will Wightman
- Ladies Choir sang at Extencicare Medex on Nov 2nd; Reta was so happy to see us.
- Memorial hymn-sing service was on Nov 6th with both Sanctuary and Ladies Choir singing
- Denis' bagpipes, Elly's trumpet, Sacred dancers and guest Helena Froehlich added greatly to our Remembrance service on Nov 13th
- Sandra Dean led Christmas carolling along with David Donaldson before services in Advent
- Dec 11th concert featured all our choirs, Erin, Denis, Vernon, Brenda, Phoenix & Raven and Staff "Angels" on our new chancel. It raised over \$1600 towards the audio/video upgrade fund ☺
- Sandra Dean led the Christmas Day service which landed on a Sunday this year
- Thanks to the Howes, the Boynton's and the Brew Table for hosting choir parties!

Upcoming plans for 2017 include:

- More opportunities to support and bring together the community through music and the arts
- A regular instrumental/vocal worship and creative "dream" team
- Improvements in audio/visual systems, music technologies and web presence
- "Canada 150" concert(s) and Christmas concert in December

Grateful and still praying for health improvements for a number of choir members and their spouses and notably for Marion & Cynthia who both had to step away from accompanying to deal with health issues, but have come through and preparing to participate once again. Thank you God!

Thanks to so many of you for sharing your talent and enthusiastic Spirit with BCUC:

All in the Senior, Ladies, Men's, Bell Canto & CGS choirs, Erin & Sandra for leadership; Leslie, Erin, Wendy for violin, flute, drum and dance. Marion & Cynthia for accompanying; Kim, Lorrie, Ellen, Nancy for ministry team support AND musical gifts; Pierre, Neil, Ken & Bob for A/V tech, and yes, the water glass folks too! (my apologies for anything and anyone I missed).

And... thanks to the entire congregation for your joyful reception and support of our efforts.

Musically submitted,

Abe TeGrotenhuis,

Bells Corners United Music

Music for Children and Youth

We have two dedicated groups of young singers, the Christian Generation Singers (CGS) and the Bell Canto Singers. We enjoy short, but busy rehearsals Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:40 (CGS) and 6:40-7:20 (Bell Canto). Each group sang in the Worship 1-2 times per month throughout the Epiphany, Lent, and Easter seasons. A fun Valentine's Day party gave both groups a chance to eat and socialize

together. We celebrated the end of the choir year with a taco party and games at the church for the choristers and their families.

In the fall, both the CGS and Bell Canto groups continued regular Thursday evening rehearsals. The CGS consisted of 9 members in JK-Gr. 4, and the Bell Canto Group had 3 members in Gr. 8-10. Each group contributed to worship service biweekly, and came together for special pieces on All-Age services. We enjoyed a Halloween party in October. The CGS and Bell Canto Singers shared their talents at the Christmas Concert as well.

We continued throughout 2016 to try to tie the Sunday School Curriculum to the Worship service through the Children's Hymn. At the beginning of most Sunday school units, a song was chosen that was a direct link to lectionary readings being focused on during class sessions. This introduced to the congregation and sung for several weeks in a row.

A new initiative, Thursday night choir dinner, was started in the Fall of 2016 to assist families who find it difficult to get to choir for the 6pm start time. A child friendly meal is brought in and a free will donation is collected from participants each week. Thank you to Monica Peck, Sue Morrison, Lorrie Lowes, and other volunteers who make this happen.

I am thankful for the dedicated young people that make up our choirs, and all those who support us through rides to rehearsal and services, instrumental accompaniment, and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Berard

Ladies Choir

Though we have been reduced to 15 singers, our Ladies Choir still enjoys meeting Wednesday mornings at 9:30 until 11:00. After our practice we often continue socializing over coffee either in the music room or at the local McDonald's. We typically sing during the worship service once per month.

Our accompanist, Marion Routledge has had some health problems this winter, and has been unable to accompany us since November. Abe has very ably led and played the piano, but we look forward to Marion's return.

We have had the privilege of singing at the senior's residence where Reta Stinson is staying this fall. I believe both residents and singers were uplifted.

This past spring our founder and long-time member Joyce Calderwood passed away. Her voice and her gentle encouragement is missed.

We sang a selection of pieces at the Christmas Concert this season, and plan to perform for the Friendship Club very soon.

We are presently discussing how we might encourage both church goers and possibly community members to join us. We are considering a new choir name in the hopes that the "re-branding" may more closely reflect our style. We would greatly appreciate any women who enjoy singing and laughing, to try us out.

Sheryll Highstead

Senior Choir

In 2016 we had changes once again. Leslie Wade had to withdraw in the fall because she had too many teen students for evening lessons. Angela Dey bade us a temporary farewell for a three year posting to Cold Lake, Alberta. And in the spring Bernice Miller announced her engagement, plans for a late June wedding for which we were invited to sing and a move to St. Catharines. While we were thrilled for her, we were very sad to say our goodbyes. However, as it worked out, her happy marriage lasted only a very short time due to Howard's untimely death and by mid-November she had moved back to Ottawa and was back in the choir in time for our December concert. We were also happy to welcome Barbara Bole and David Stafford back to the choir later in the year.

We continued to sing three Sundays in the month as well as participating in a May 1 Merry Month of May Concert with guest choir Village Voyces from Spencerville and proceeds shared among the BCUC Operating Fund, Hazel & Doyle Smith's Zambia mission trip and a donation to the visiting choir. Again at Christmas time we participated in the December 11 Music of Christmas concert when more than \$1,600 was raised to support the AV Fund. We also provide a choir for funeral/memorial services of church members through the year.

Our usual summer and winter choir parties were held, a time when choir members and spouses gather for a potluck and time to get to know one another better while sharing a meal and fun times together. The winter party now happens in early January, a better time with fewer other social commitments.

We continue to enjoy Abe's enthusiastic and capable musical direction. Now in his second year, we are all feeling comfortable together. Thanks also to Erin Berard who provides flute accompaniment and other musical support from time to time, to Leslie Wade for violin accompaniment and to Sandra Dean for piano accompaniment when required. Bells Corners United Church has a wealth of musical talent for which we are very grateful.

Ellen Boynton

Service, Outreach and Social Action Committee (SOSA)

Purpose: to promote the work and needs of the Mission and Service Fund: to coordinate and participate in programs that proclaim the mission of the Church through service and outreach: and to strive to inform the congregation on issues of human rights, social justice and care of God's creation occurring locally, nationally and internationally.

In support of this purpose the SOSA committee:

- publicizes the work of the Mission and Service Fund on a regular basis and takes action on any appeals issued by the national church either for money or action;
- keeps informed on local community needs and plans, coordinates and participates in local outreach programs through designated resource people on the committee;
- publicizes and supports human rights, social justice and care of God's creation events and workshops held in the community;
- presents all three aspects to the congregation through regular Minutes for Mission, the *Bell Ringer*, the SOSA noticeboard, on the TV at church and announcements of meetings in the Sunday bulletin.

In 2017 the SOSA committee recommends continued financial support for the following outreach ministries:

Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (O.W.E.C.C.): The Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy had a rebirth in August 2016 when Rev. Steve Zink was appointed to work for a total of twelve hours per week in the four social housing neighbourhoods. As a result of this the following will happen in 2017. An informal group will meet once a week at Regina Towers and when requested special services will be offered (e.g. Blue Christmas).

Steve will continue to spend some time at each of the food banks to get to know individuals and will be available for one on one counselling.

It is difficult to be more precise than this because of the very nature of the work. Steve will endeavour to respond to the needs of the different neighbourhoods. **Peggy Aitchison**

Refuge N.O.W.: Our new refugee family from Syria, a couple with four children, arrived in Canada in November, 2016. The family has many adjustments to make, including to the Canadian winter. The husband has started English lessons and the children are all in school and learning English rapidly. As this is a blended relationship, with the Federal Government, Refuge N.O.W. is responsible for supporting the family financially for 6 months. Refuge N.O.W. is entirely responsible for supporting the family in every other way, for a full year, and this is what we will continue to do in 2017. **Bridget McNeill**

Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI): The mission of MHI is to help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing and promoting well maintained, affordable, rental housing in a safe and neighbourly environment. Currently MHI owns and provides affordable and supportive housing for 41 low income families in Blake House, Kent House and Somerset Gardens with occupancy beginning in The Haven in January 2017.

The focus of this past year has continued to be the completion of The Haven, a mix of apartments and townhouses in Barrhaven which, upon completion, will provide housing for 300 people in need of safe, affordable housing. MHI is partnering with other agencies to build supportive housing on the former Rockcliffe Air base for homeless Veterans. Many fundraising events have taken place this past year to support both Veterans House and The Haven as well as maintaining the existing MHI housing units. The MHI Annual General Meeting was held on April 3, at Temple Israel. As a member of MHI, BCUC is entitled to vote on any proceedings. This event was attended by four of our SOSA members. Updates were given on the new projects being undertaken, namely The Haven and Veterans House.

The Tulipathon, an annual walk to fundraise for MHI, was held on May 1, 2016. Although we did not walk in the rain, our BCUC participants raised over \$1000 in support of the walk. In September, Barbara Bole Stafford attended a BBQ on the project site of The Haven. We were given a tour of one of the units and an update of the progress of the buildings. SOSA was responsible for the Worship Service on October 15. Our guest speaker was Sahada Alolo, Community Engagement Manager, who spoke on the work of MHI to combat homelessness, and the volunteer needs of MHI. November 13 was a celebration of National Housing Day which was held at Jean Piggot Place. Members of SOSA were in attendance. Various faith leaders spoke about the meaning of compassion as interpreted by the religions they represented.

MHI is establishing job descriptions for volunteer positions. Some of the areas where volunteers will be recruited are: fundraising, community outreach, IT, assisting with special events, maintenance help, administration. In 2016, SOSA's budget line for MHI was \$3000. As well BCUC pays a membership fee of \$100 to MHI which gives voting privileges and access to ongoing updates. This year Ottawa Presbytery has launched a campaign to raise \$100,000 towards MHI's goal of its \$1,000,000 capital campaign for The Haven. Presbytery hopes to double the number of United Church congregations who are members

of MHI from 10 to 20. BCUC is one of the 10 members. From the SOSA budget, \$500 is being donated to the Presbytery campaign.

As individuals, we too can contribute to helping MHI accomplish its mission. Donations may be sent to: Multi-faith Housing Initiative, 209-404 McArthur Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1K 1G8, or by donating online at www.multifaithhousing.ca. More information on MHI can be found on the website. **Barbara Bole Stafford**

Mission and Service (M&S): The “work” of the M&S Enthusiast has, for the past year, been to continue to be present and visible. This has been achieved mostly through informative articles and posters on the bulletin board, with donation envelopes placed in the narthex on special occasions and speaking to the “Young at Heart” combining story time and Minutes for Mission.

Bells Corners United Church is very generous in its givings to the M&S Fund. For this the United Church of Canada and the Mission and Service Fund offer thanks.

For the coming year new ways will be put in place to engage our members and visitors so that they can give to M&S without compromising their givings to the local church;

- through special envelopes, (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, Memorial and other celebrations) placed in a special M&S box on the narthex table.
- bulletin board themes will be displayed throughout the year e.g. Why I Give; How to Give?; How Much is Given?; Who Receives What I Give? etc.

It is through the generous gifts of the people that the Church can fulfill its mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. **Nicole Beaudry**

FAMSAC Food Cupboard: 2016 was a year of great transformations for FAMSAC. All operations were transferred to the storefront location that had been its temporary storage space since the flood of 2015. It has allowed the clients to come to the food cupboard to “shop” for items instead of relying solely on the delivery of prepackaged bags. Some deliveries of prepackaged orders do continue to be made to clients who are unable to get to the cupboard. There is a commercial refrigerator and fresh produce can now be stored. All of these changes were highlighted at an open house held at the new location in mid- October. Several volunteers, local politicians and a representative of the Business Improvement Area attended.

Financial concerns do remain given the ongoing cost of rent and utilities for FAMSAC'S storefront location. A series of fundraising events have brought in significant amounts of money including:

- \$1,600 from the annual ecumenical breakfast organized by the three churches on Old Richmond Road
- Over \$3,500 from the second annual West End Food Truck Rally (WEFTR) at Christ Church Bells Corners, despite record rainfall that day
- Approximately \$3,000 from a silent auction launched at a local brewery
- \$1,300 from the annual OC Transpo “Fill the Bus” drive
- \$9,250 from an event organized by local MPPs and hosted at the Bells Corners fire station in support of the Christmas hamper campaign which represented a significant portion of the over \$28,000 raised at Christmas.

The total income for 2016 was \$77,000 a 20.5% increase over last year. At year's end there was a surplus of over \$31,700.

945 food orders were delivered in 2016 and 223 Christmas hampers were filled. Volunteer recruitment will remain an area of focus for 2017.

August 12, 2017 is the date of the next Food Truck Rally. **Jeremy LeBlanc (CCBC) for Glenna Jackson**

Advent and Lenten Projects: The Advent Project for 2016 was a success. Donations of practical gifts were made to the clients of the Elizabeth Fry and John Howard Societies. The Lenten Project for 2017 is a work in progress and will concern some aspect of aboriginal issues.

Alison Bridgewater, Chair

Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team

At BCUC, we are blessed to have dedicated members of our Pastoral & Spiritual Care Team composed of: Ronalie Abbey, Barbara Bole, Suzanne Ogden and Bill Wilson who work in partnership with our ministers, Rev. Kim Vidal and Lorrie Lowes. The team's main purpose is to coordinate and offer pastoral care visitation to members and adherents of the congregation. Along with designated friendly visitors, the team encourages and supports home, hospital, and retirement/nursing facilities visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited. Here are some of the highlights of our team's accomplishments in 2016:

FRIENDLY VISITORS

In addition to the members of the team, visits are made by friendly visitors (this includes members of the Men's Club, UCW and other volunteers) within our circle of care to those living at home, in long-term care facilities, or retirement homes.

PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

Kim Culley and Nancy Meyers took the basic pastoral care training course offered by the Ottawa Pastoral Care last fall.

PRAYER CHALICE/ PRAYER CIRCLE

Every Sunday, the congregation is encouraged to submit prayer requests as an avenue of extending prayer and support to those who are in need of healing. Our ministers, with members of our team, respond with prayer to those requests in a Prayer Circle held (at each pastoral care team meeting or the last Wednesday of the month.)

HOSPITAL VISITS

The Ministers, with the assistance of some trained members of our team, offer visits to those in hospitals.

SENDING OF CARDS

Get well, sympathy, milestone celebrations and personal thought cards are sent by a sub-team composed of Ronalie Abbey, Pat Stoate and Judy Mann as the need arises.

TEA AND SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

On December 14, members from our congregation and from the wider community joined the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team to have tea and conversation in the Main Hall. Those who attended had an opportunity to listen to encouraging, comforting words of hope from our guest speaker, Judith Campbell, and experience first-hand meditative techniques designed to promote self-care and healing. This was followed by a service of Hope and Healing in the Music Room. Additionally, there was an opportunity to walk the candle-lit labyrinth.

CLOSING REMARKS

In June last year, Cynthia Watson stepped down as the chair of Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team after three years of dedicated leadership. We express our thanks and appreciation to Cynthia and to wish her the best of health.

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team continues to remind everyone to please phone the office, or contact Rev. Kim or Lorrie if you know of anyone who is in need of a pastoral visit. We really count on and appreciate your input. We rely on so many in our congregation to help our team out.

Our continued thanks go to Rev. Kim and to our CDM, Lorrie Lowes, for providing us such caring support.

Suzanne Ogden, Chair

Membership

2016 Statistics	Baptisms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baptisms 4• Marriages 3• Funerals/Memorial Services 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malcolm Osgoode, son of Kent & Emma Osgoode• Keven Ash, son of Andrew & Dorothy Ash• Emma Ash, daughter of Andrew & Dorothy Ash• Logan Findlay, son of Michael & Paula Findlay

Marriage

- Bernice Miller married Howard Crawford, June 25, 2016

Marriages off-site

- Jean Lamontagne & Lorrie Smith – June 2016
- Will Morrison & Isobel Bickett – October 2016

Died in 2016 – BCUC Members	Died in 2016 – BCUC Adherents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ivy Duffett• Joyce Calderwood• Stu Steves• Doris Argue• Deborah Brown• John Smith• Dolores Wilson• Mary Main• David Andrew• Bill Atchison• Don McElligott	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gerald Smith• Jim Nellis• Don McMillan• Kyle Fowler

Memorial Gift Donations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Nellis • Don McMillan • Stewart Snider • Larry Atkinson • Frode Anderson • Tom, Ruth & David Crocker • Kyle Fowler • Joyce & Gordon Scott • Bryan McLinton • Hilda Dobson • Howard Crawford • Bert Bridgewater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivy Duffett • Joyce Calderwood • Stu Steves • Doris Argue • Deborah Brown • John Smith • Dolores Wilson • Mary Main • David Andrew • Bill Atchison • Don McElligott • Gerald Smith

BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)

- Helen Williams – Dec. 28, 2016
- Eleanor Norris – Nov. 5, 2016
- Betty McDonald – May 21, 2016
- Donald Loucks – Aug. 27, 2016
- Jackie Bannister – Jan. 28, 2016

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14.27

Property Management Committee

Our Church Building needs heating, lighting, cleaning and general maintenance to serve the needs of the congregation and users of the facility. The Property Management Committee maintains and manages our facilities through its own efforts and those of contractors.

During 2016, the major projects were as follows:

- replacement of the CE Wing furnace with a more efficient and reliable unit,
- repair/replacement of the office counter tops and cupboards,
- construction of a new picnic table
- repair of the chain-link fence
- removal of obstructions in the main sewer
- replacement of Sanctuary incandescent lights with LED units
- an attempt to stop the leak around the Sanctuary skylight

Ross Brown & Neville Reed

Ministry and Personnel Committee

During 2016 the composition of the Ministry and Personnel Committee was: Jillian Chuchryk, Mandy Crow, Alex Culley, James Eaton and John MacFarlane. John Burrows resigned from the Committee in June and Colin O'Connell in May. James performed duties of Chair, July to December and Alex will take over from January to June 2017.

Abe TeGrotenhuis completed his first full year as Director of Music and has fit in very well with great reviews. Sandra Dean also filled in several times during the summer and provided Sunday music.

A new compensation model for Rev Kim Vidal, which will soon be used by all United Churches, was applied as of 1 July 2016. Several members also attended an M&P workshop to keep up to date on current United Church policies and future trends.

In late October, M&P conducted annual reviews with the staff. The main finding was that once again Kim, Lorrie, Abe, Ellen and Nancy, the five employees, were working well together as a team. In addition to these formal reviews, M&P staff regularly interacted with staff to identify successes and challenges.

During 2016, replacements for Rev. Kim Vidal (vacation and study leave) were Rev. Matt Gallinger, Lorrie Lowes and Rev. Angela Bailey.

- Alex Culley, Chair

Men's Club

The Men's Club is a group operating within the bounds of Bells Corners United Church with the intent on promoting fellowship among the men of the church by providing an opportunity to get to know each other on an informal basis. Monthly activities consisting of either morning coffee time, a dinner with topical speaker, or a planned outing. The group is managed by an executive, which consists of David Stafford (President), Dale Jarvis (Past-President), Bob Noyes (Secretary-Treasurer), Ron Knox (Program), Bob Boynton (Technology), Jim Maxwell and David Beard (Communications), and Ross Mutton (Dinners). The group is self-sufficient with no financial encumbrance to BCUC.

During 2016, the men's club held several morning coffee spots with an average twenty people attending. Dinners, prepared by Chef Ross Mutton, were held January 12 with Rob Carrick of the Globe and Mail; April 26 with Mayor Jim Watson; October 16 with Doyle Smith and December 6 with Jordon Berard. These attracted between 18 and 45 people on each occasion.

The Men's group celebrated generous contributions of members. Ross Mutton was thanked for his continuing management of coffee days and the several dinners held throughout the year, and lunch preparation for the annual Christmas Bazaar where vegetable soup and chili are old favourites!

Responding to a declared need from the Nursery School and the Youth Group, the Men's Club, in concert with property management for storage, obtained a BBQ in good condition from Brian Hicks, and donated it to the church. It is available for on-site church sponsored events by request – bring your own gas tank!

A financial report is available and shows revenue from ticket sales of \$1,455 and total expenses of \$1,453.40, which includes costs of food, speaker appreciation (usually a \$50 Chapter's card); the BBQ, gifts of \$200 to the BCUC Memorial Fund and \$225 to the Roof Fund, and banking charges. The Club bank balance at year end (2016) was \$1,366.77

Planning for 2017 is underway with coffee dates being set for February, April and June and dinner dates with speakers for January, March and May. We hope to see many men continue to participate.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact David Stafford in person at 613-592-0296 or at davidstafford@sympatico.ca - David Stafford, President

Communications

After several years of relative dormancy, the Communications Committee sprang to life again in 2016, with a team of congregants keen to update and improve BCUC's various communication tasks. With many potential updates, we are enjoying the challenge of prioritizing goals for BCUC in this area. We are looking forward to maintaining momentum in the year ahead!

Sunday Morning

We have been involved in ongoing discussions of improved sanctuary AV equipment, and will continue our support and encouragement of the AV Procurement Team.

We have started discussions and the brainstorming of ways to update the bulletins, including looking at successful bulletins from other churches.

At BCUC

The Communications Committee purchased and installed two TV monitors for the foyer. We have implemented a method for BCUC groups to submit content to be displayed on the TVs. The idea is to promote BCUC events and programs to other users of the building.

We began a two-year plan to rework the bulletin boards in the foyer. The goal is to have a more modern, less cluttered appearance, without losing communication avenues.

Other endeavours which we have discussed or designed, and which we hope to implement in 2017 include weekly information e-mails to keep congregants informed, improved signage outside the building and in the entrance, an enhanced communications centre in the foyer, and ways to acknowledge volunteers more often.

The Communications Committee also covered the expense of office supplies as requested by the office staff.

In the Community

Research was started into updating the church website. Various website providers have been explored, along with new layout options. This task will continue.

We implemented the addition of advertisements to the *Bell Ringer*. This endeavour has generated approximately \$1,000.00 so far.

We have started discussions and brainstorming of ways to update the *Bell Ringer*, and have implemented the e-mail distribution of the *Bell Ringer* where appropriate.

We updated the information brochure handed out to visitors to the BCUC Bazaar, which includes information about BCUC programming.

Olly Chuchryk, Chair

Finance

The Financial Management Committee is responsible for the management of the Church's finances on behalf of Church Board in accordance with the overall objectives of the Congregation. The major activities consist of

- managing the annual financial planning cycle including forecasting expenses and revenues and preparing an annual budget for approval by the Board and the Congregation;
- tracking, recording and safeguarding the financial transactions (income and expenses) throughout the year for the operating, committee directed and capital funds;
- organizing and publishing monthly reports to the Board;
- issuing tax receipts for donations; managing banking services; initiating the annual financial audit; preparing the annual charity tax return and coordinating with stewardship campaigns.

Tracking and recording the multitude of BCUC financial transactions involves many volunteers backed up by a professional bookkeeper (Carolyn Whitley) who keeps a computerized record in Simply Accounting that is vital to an effective year-end audit review. The key volunteer roles include the Sunday tellers (organized by Bob and Barb Noyes); the event treasurers (too many to name!), the Directed Fund Coordinator (Bob Boynton), the envelope secretary (Karen Morrison who keeps track of all donations for tax receipt purposes using Church Watch), the PAR Coordinators (Gail and Ross Mutton), the Securities Coordinator (Brian Durno) and the Gift Certificate Program Coordinator (Alan Bentley).

The overall 2016 financial results for BCUC remained strong as indicated in this brief summary of the actual revenues and expenses by major fund categories compared to the budget plan for 2016:

	<u>Summary Actual 2016</u>		<u>Budget Plan 2016</u>	
	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operating Fund (*) (**)	\$ 397,073	\$406,459	\$ 389,600	\$ 404,430
Building Maintenance & Repair (†)	\$ 3,062	\$ -10,875	n/a	n/a
Committee Directed Funds (#)	\$ 35,779	\$ -28,225	n/a	n/a
Capital Directed Funds (##)	\$ 58,493	\$ -26,314	n/a	n/a

(*) Operating expenses include \$41,000 allocated to M&S; there were additional donations to M&S in 2015 from a Committee Directed SOSA Flo-thru Fund and from the UCW directly.

(**) Operating Fund had a deficit of \$-9,386 in 2016.

(†) Building Mtc & Repair Fund revenues include dividends from investments (\$1,316) and donations (\$3,500); the balance in the Fund on December 31, 2016 was \$11,442.

(#) Committee Directed Funds: for details, see report "Status of Directed Funds as of 2016/12/31".

(##) Capital Directed Funds: for details, see report "Status of Directed Funds as of 2016/12/31".

The Gift Certificate program produced a surplus of \$3,273. The BCUC fund raising events (Spring Garage Sale, Christmas Fair and other events) brought in a total of \$26,738. Rental income and fees amounted to \$47,243 from all sources.

The securities held for the Operating Fund were valued at \$40,621 on December 31, 2016. The dividends earned (\$1,888.25) go toward funding the annual Moodie Scholarship (\$200), the Building Mtc & Repair Fund (\$1,316) and securities held on behalf of the Roof Fund (\$270).

The Auditors Report for the year ending December 31, 2016 is a separate report that will be released together with the 2017 budget documents on February 26, 2017 (one week prior to the AGM).

I thank the many volunteers who supported the Financial Management Committee with their dedication of time and hard work, and the Congregation for its continuing strong financial support of BCUC's activities and programs.

Bill Johnson, Chair

Garage Sale

Again this year the May 7 Garage Sale was well supported and realized a profit of \$3,994 for the Operating Fund. The usual sales areas were provided with almost all coordinators returning for the sale. Experienced people, assisted by newer congregation members, enable sales areas to run smoothly. Having as many newer members involved as possible gives them a chance to become known to the BCUC family. Encouraging younger congregation members to help with the children's toys sales area is a good way to engage youth.

Having 'UP youth' group provide a BBQ and drinks area adds significantly to the day's pleasure. Kim's spring rolls are also a very popular addition! Youth fundraising goes to their projects. Having a sunny day meant people could relax at tables out on the labyrinth.

Leftovers mostly go to Salvation Army. Books are always a challenge but several destinations have been found for the many remaining boxes of books and it all works out in the end.

Many people work together to prepare for, provide and clear up the garage sale. With so much cooperation the job of being coordinators is not overwhelming. It is a good day to open the doors to the community and to share fellowship among members of the congregation.

Bob & Ellen Boynton, Coordinators

Christmas Bazaar

The CBC manages and coordinates BCUC's annual Christmas Bazaar in the best interests of the Congregation and in keeping with the overall objectives of the Church. Each year, the Financial Management Committee identifies in the budget (line item) a dollar amount that the Christmas Bazaar is expected to achieve. This number is based on receipts over the past 10 years. This year the Christmas Bazaar made a profit of \$13,164.51.

In 2016, the CBC managed and coordinated BCUC's annual Christmas Bazaar, including:

- identification of table coordinators and financial officer
- liaised with the Church office for coordination of advertising and other work and issues as they arose in preparation for the Bazaar
- coordinated the set-up of the Bazaar two days prior to the Bazaar date.
- arranged for disposal of leftover goods.
- arranged for decoration of the Church for the holiday season and took down the decorations in the New Year.
- Resources Needed in 2017: none

Committee Chairs for 2016: Mary Jones, Betty Graham

Presbytery

Ottawa Presbytery had a busy year under the guidance of Rev. Anne Montgomery until the summer and then Phyllis MacRae since then. Their commitment and dedication is a fine example for us all.

The proposed restructuring of the UCC has been at the forefront of the business this year. Presbytery has also dealt with more local issues including restructuring of some of the Quebec churches and an isolated incident of hate graffiti at a local church.

Meetings were held at Woodroffe, Glen Cairn, Stittsville, Munster and Parkdale United Churches in the first part of the year and Riverside, Emmanuel, Rideau Park, Centertown and Britannia United Churches in the second half of 2016.

The Montreal and Ottawa Conference held its AGM at Wyman Memorial Church in Hudson QC on May 28th 2016. This year, for the first time, the proceedings of the conference were made available by video link to other sites. City View UC was chosen as one of these sites and Rev. Kim Vidal, Sue Morrison, Nicole Beaudry, David Stafford. and Joyce Williams attended the proceedings at this Ottawa location. It

was a very informal atmosphere and we were able to join in the hymn singing, prayers and vote on agenda items.

Details of the eight remits from the 42nd General Council have been given to the Presbytery and distributed to the local churches. So far Presbytery has discussed and voted to accept the three “presbytery only” remits dealing with: #5. Ministry Partners with mutual recognition agreements, #7. Candidacy pathways, #8. A Step towards a new model of membership. In December Presbytery discussed and voted to accept #1. Three Council model and #2 Elimination of transfer and settlement. These latter two remits have also to be voted on in the months ahead by all pastoral charges/councils, along with the remaining three.

The restructuring of five congregations in West Quebec took place in October 2016. The congregations of Cantley, Gatineau, Chelsea, Wakefield and Rupert UC have become one new pastoral charge called “Eglise Unie de la Grace United Church”. Nicole Beaudry led the congregations through the French process, as part of the Ministries in French, as the new charge will have a bilingual flavour. We also saw the amalgamation of the Extra-Consistoire Laurentian, Montreal and Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbyteries in June and talks are pending regarding the possible amalgamation of Ottawa, Bay of Quinte and Seaway Presbyteries in the future.

The youth and young adult Ministry of Presbytery has been active this year as a group went in March to Zeballos, BC through the federal government’s ‘Experiences Canada’ program. In addition Hazel and Doyle Smith, a sister and brother team from BCUC, went to Zambia in May to visit places including the Chipembi Girls’ School and the local United Church of Zambia congregation.

Several local UC congregations have participated in the organisation of the sponsorship of Syrian refugee families. They have been led by Norma McCord of the Global Partners Team at Presbytery. BCUC is a member of Refuge NOW and in 2016 has been sponsoring their own refugee family.

Presbytery has also undertaken to support financially the building of ‘The Haven’ in Barrhaven. The goal is \$1 million towards this project by the local MultiFaith Housing Initiative to build approx.100 affordable houses. An ongoing fundraising campaign is underway and house building has begun.

Continuing support of the efforts at reconciliation with the Indigenous people of Canada has been seen at the Presbytery level in the active participation in the Algonquin Grandmothers’ Sacred walk and ceremony in June and other events and workshops by Kairos. Other projects in 2016 have included a call and petition to the Ontario government for an increase to the minimum wage and the ongoing education for everyone on the effect of climate change.

The year ended on a positive note as we look forward to the new plans for reconstruction of our Presbytery and Montreal and Ottawa Conference within the UCC and a regeneration of faith.

On behalf of all Presbytery Reps., submitted by Joyce Williams

UCW (United Church Women)

The UCW calendar is very similar from year to year. January we make turkey pies to sell to the congregation (usually about 750). Orders are taken for a couple Sundays before the three days of cooking. January is also kitchen clean-up when inventory is taken. February all units meet together and have a common speaker. We participate in the Spring Garage Sale in May. There is a Strawberry Social

the end of June each year at which time we bake the cakes/tea biscuits and provide staff for the kitchen. We helped to staff and prepare the desserts for the fall Asian Dinner.

In the fall each unit bakes their contributions for the Christmas Fair in November. In October we make turkey pies to sell at the Fair (about 230). Gift baskets are prepared, wrapped and priced on the Friday before the Fair. A Sunday near Remembrance Day we host a Veteran's Breakfast for 35-40 Vets and their families.

Each unit has their own activity to raise money within the unit and the recipient of these monies is a unit group decision which has nothing to do with UCW as a whole or BCUC. This is usually a charitable donation at our Christmas Potluck dinners. Our general meetings are May and September with a potluck supper at the church. Our speakers are invited to join us for supper. At any time during the year we try to accommodate catering for funeral requests that we receive from members of the congregation. As our members get older it does get more difficult to make this happen.

Once a month, the unit on kitchen duty cleans the refrigerators of outdated items. Everyone should remove their own leftovers or label them appropriately for someone else to use. UCW takes care of the church kitchen by ensuring that supplies and equipment are always kept on hand. It is a well used kitchen and much appreciated by groups who use our premises.

Our executive meetings are held in the Shalom Room the last Monday of each month, excluding December and summer. Our service to congregational funerals, along with turkey pies, allows UCW to provide funds for church capital needs as well as making annual donations to the United Church Mission & Service Fund, plus other local charities.

Nancy Lusk,
UCW Secretary

Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES: Jan Pound, Bert Donnelly (Co-chairs), Bev Cromb, Ruth Howes, David Hughes, David Maxwell, Ross Mutton, Frank Pope

We welcomed two new members, Jan Pound and Ruth Howes, and thanked Ed Lauer for his five year leadership of the Trustee Board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES holds BCUC property in trust for the United Church of Canada. (UCC)

During 2016 the Trustees:

- (a) Provided oversight to the Memorial Endowment Fund,
- (b) Monitored investment performance of the Fiera Capital Funds we hold,
- (c) Promoted the donation of gifts to the Memorial Endowment Fund,
- (d) Paid out to the BCUC Board of Directors \$ 3,600 from investment earnings,
- (e) Negotiated annual insurance, currently with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company,
- (f) Confirmed insurance for the Union Cemetery, (provided by Christ Church Anglican)
- (g) Mitigated risk through the implementation of the BCUC Risk Management Plan,
- (h) Completed an inventory of BCUC property for insurance purposes.

Resources needed in 2017:

Liability Insurance for renewal of Policy November 29, 2017 of approximately \$ 8,287.92 including Ontario Tax of \$613.92 (This is the 2016 amount which increased \$100 more than the 2015 invoices)

Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board

The Cemetery, founded in 1853, is a joint responsibility of Christ Church Bells Corners (Anglican) and Bells Corners United Church. It is a heritage property and a charitable organization, operated by the Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 of the Province of Ontario. Representing the Anglican Church on the Board are Bill Irwin (Treasurer), Colin Franklin and Orest Roscoe while the United Church is represented by Frank Pope (Chair), Trevor Morrison and Peggy Smyth. Ex-officio members of the Board are a Minister from each congregation.

Revenue in 2016 (2015 figures in brackets) was \$7,320 (\$4,055) expenses \$3,845 (\$8,571). Donations were significantly higher. There were two burials, one full burial and one of cremated remains. Revenue and expense detail for 2016 is shown below.

Revenue:	donations	\$4,761.	Expenses:	grounds	\$2,500.
	investments	2,569.		hedge trim	650.
	Interment fees	400.		administration	695.

A newsletter was sent out on April 6th and it included a copy of the Annual Report for 2015. The Board met three times during the year and otherwise kept in touch through email and telephone. We were saddened this year by the passing of Orest Roscoe, a longtime member of the Cemetery Board.

The tenth annual Memorial Service was held on September 11th, with Reverend Kathryn Otley of Christ Church conducting the service. About 30 people attended the service, much the same as last year. Notice of the service was mailed on the 18th of August to people on our address list, posted in the bulletins of both churches and posted in the Nepean Barrhaven newspaper.

Again this year the grounds were well kept by Glen Soubliere, subcontractor for Kare-Mor Ent. Co. Ltd. Richard Eade helped on special projects. This year special thanks is due to Bill Irwin, who, besides doing a great job as Treasurer, also reports to Revenue Canada and the Registrar of Cemeteries in Ontario. In addition, this year he arranged for the sand blasting and painting of the main gate. .

Frank Pope, Chairman

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee mainly organizes the Stewardship Campaign, these days in late January/early February, just before the Annual General Meeting. The purpose of the Campaign is to solicit Financial Pledges for the upcoming year; these pledges help is determining the Annual Budget. Also, the Campaign solicits Time and Talent commitments for various Church activities, and these are entered into the Church database to assist organizers for the volunteer programs of the Church.

About 400 packages are assembled for delivery by Circuit Messengers and mail. The packages consist of a colorful Brochure outlining the Church Programs, the Budget, and messages from the Minister and Board Chair(s) concerning Stewardship. As well, the package contains a return envelope, a financial Pledge form, a Time and Talent form, and a listing of Church Activities requiring volunteers. About half the persons receiving the package return a pledge, and another 20 percent or so are active financially without pledging.

As part of the campaign, we also organize a 'Soup and Sandwiches' after the Sunday Service at the nominal end of the Campaign. In early 2017, we also organized a Committee Fair to answer questions about popular Church Activities.

Bill McGee,
On behalf of the Stewardship Committee