

# **Bells Corners United Church 2019 Annual Report**



**Bells Corners United Church**

**REJOICE, RENEW, RESPOND, REACH OUT**

# 2019 Annual Report

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## Office Information    Bells Corners United Church

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CDM/Ministry Candidate	Lorrie Lowes	<a href="mailto:Lorrielowes12@gmail.com">Lorrielowes12@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:lorrie@bcuc.org">lorrie@bcuc.org</a>	820-8103
Music Director	Abe TeGrotenhuis	<a href="mailto:music@bcuc.org">music@bcuc.org</a>	820-8103
Office Administrators	Ellen Boynton Nancy Meyers (to Nov.)	<a href="mailto:office@bcuc.org">office@bcuc.org</a>	820-8103

### 2019 CHURCH BOARD

Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal
Chair	Jordan Berard
Past Chair	Sue Morrison
Chair Elect	John MacFarlane (Dec. 2019 – Feb. 2020)
Secretary	Norm Pound
Ministry & Personnel	James Eaton
Financial Management	Bill Johnson
Members at Large	Will Wightman Ellen Boynton
EOORC	Nicole Beaudry (to June) Desna Sulway
Youth Consultation	Phoenix Miller

## Sunday Worship Services

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 or, in the case of inactive membership, by Profession 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.

**Celebration of Life:** 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.

## Church Groups

### Choirs:

- **Christian Generation Singers (CGS):** Kindergarten - Grade 5, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm
- **Bell Canto:** Grade 6 and up, Thursday - 6:40 pm
- **Choir:** Thursday - 7:15 pm
- **Grace Notes:** Wednesday - 9:30 am
- **Men's Chorus:** Sunday mornings

### United Church Women (UCW)

- **Unit 1:** Leader - Rotational; Meet from time to time.
- **Unit 2:** Leader - Ellen Boynton (828-3820); Meet the second Monday of each month, 2:00 pm in the homes of members.
- **Unit 3:** Leader - Jean Watson (829-3463); Meet the second Monday of each month, 7:30 pm 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 membership class, advent & lent studies.

**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 am. 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 coffee mornings and from time to time for an evening meal and guest speaker.

**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 of the month in the afternoon.

## Minister's Message

Dear friends at BCUC,

One year ends, another one begins! 2019 has been a whirlwind of activity as always at Bells Corners United Church and includes many highlights.

One of my personal highlights in 2019 was my sabbatical leave. I traveled to some special places, notably South Korea and Singapore. Along with the travel, I also attended the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the second week of May. The Festival of Homiletics is a weeklong conference that brings together clergy and lay participants to listen and be inspired by a wide variety of outstanding preachers. Through the festival, my faith was renewed and my soul refreshed and I hope to continue to share the renewed enthusiasm that I have experienced with you all. Another highlight of my sabbatical time was what I called "church hopping" where I visited a total of eight United Churches in Ottawa and noted the worship life and how the church service was done, how the sermon was preached and what programs were being done in each congregation. Visiting other churches gave me the opportunity to sit in the pew as a worshipper and to experience the Spirit's presence with others outside BCUC.

While I was away during my sabbatical leave, the life and ministry of BCUC were under the able hands of Lorrie Lowes, our ministry candidate. Thank you, Lorrie, for your leadership and your presence. Note of thanks goes also to Rev. Angela Bailey for helping with Pastoral Care and leading a service, and to Rev. Camille Lipsett, who, with Angela, assisted in Board meetings during my absence. The highlights of my sabbatical were shared with the congregation through an Asian Dinner in September where an astounding 105 people came to enjoy a meal prepared by the Vidal sisters.

As a congregation, we started and finished 2019 with new enthusiasm and hopeful initiatives. For the first time in many years, we have had a successful musical “The Storytelling Man” led by our music director, Abe, TeGrotenhuis with the help of Nancy Meyers, Erin Berard, Wendy Morrell and many singers and performers. We continued to focus on family ministry by providing dinners for families of our youth choirs on Thursdays and encouraged our youth and children to participate in all-ages gatherings and services. The Secret Pal initiative was a big hit! Thanks to Rev. Camille Lipsett and Erin Berard for putting this wonderful program together. We are also blessed to have our children initiate the Sleeping Children Around the World fund raising endeavour. We raised about \$5000 that will provide 143 bed kits for needy children. Our Sunday School attendance has grown and the youth group has been very active and enthusiastic. Thanks to Lorrie and her team for making this possible! And a big thank you to Kim & Alex Culley for their youth leadership. Camp Awesome too has never been the same. Last year, there were over 50 registered campers. Thanks to Tamara for her dedication and commitment and for the many volunteers who supported this program. In March, Phoenix and Raven Miller joined a group of youth and leaders in a partnership visit to El Salvador where they helped build a school and reached out to youth and children in that area.

The concerted efforts of *Two Men and A Stove* (Neil Lowes & David Stafford) were acknowledged as they put together dinners that supported many programs at BCUC. We also continued to support an ongoing multi-faith bridge-building relationship with the Jami Omar Mosque, spearheaded by Alison Bridgewater and other BCUC volunteers. We enjoyed a gathering at the mosque in October with a sumptuous dinner and inspiring speakers. In September, Progressive Learning Circle invited Rev. Cheri Di Novo who engaged her listeners on a very important topic: *From Charity to Social Action: Working Together to Create A Just Society*. The Seekers Group studied and discussed the book of Bernard Brandon Scott, *The Real Paul* in February followed by a study of Mike Grimshaw’s book, *Geering Interviews* in November. Another joy we celebrated last year were the many new members of various committees who stepped up and volunteered their time, talents and treasures along with the incumbents.

Despite the fact that we have had a number of deaths in 2019 including some of the pillars of the church like Bob Southern, Neil MacDonald and Jim Stephenson, we had the pleasure of welcoming into our BCUC family 10 adults who transferred their membership, four adult confirmations and six infants who were baptized. We also celebrated the weddings of Beryl Cameron and Paul Desrochers in March, as well as Carolyn Allan and Bruce Leighton in October.

Finally, I would not have been able to accomplish my visions and goals in 2019 without the support, prayers, care and friendship of Lorrie, Nancy, Ellen and Abe. In mid-November, Nancy Meyers, our office admin for 17 years, relinquished her position due to a full-time job that she accepted. Nancy will be greatly missed but I’m sure she will be a good asset to her new job. I wish Nancy all the best in her new endeavour.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the Board, the different committees and every member and adherent, young and old, who continue to work hard and nurture each other. Please be reminded that we are the body of Jesus Christ with lots of work still to do. Our transformation as a faith community will depend on the personal transformation of each one. I am blessed to be your minister and I can’t thank you enough for all your support, your love and friendship that you extend to me and my family: Ken, Justin and Jacob. I look forward to our ministry together as we seek new adventures and explore creative ways of being faithful to our mission as a Christian community. May God’s blessings continue be with us as we journey together in faith.

Shalom, Rev. Kim

## Ministry Candidate

As I reflect over this past year at BCUC, I am struck once again by the enthusiasm and dedication of our congregation members. As my experience working here continues to grow – six years already! – I have become increasingly involved in more and more of the wonderful work being done here in the church, in the local community, and globally. We have so much to be proud of as we strive to be faithful followers of Jesus and to be his heart, hands, and feet in the world. On the Volunteer Appreciation Sunday of this year's Stewardship Campaign, I was amazed once again at the number of people who stood to be acknowledged as volunteers in our congregation – choir members, musicians, ushers, readers, Sunday School teachers, people who take care of the sanctuary, those who prepare the elements for communion, committee members who do everything from keeping the building in good shape to visiting our shut-ins. There are people who cook, people who nurture, people who raise funds - people who care about this place and this faith family. And this work isn't just being done by a few – almost everyone in the congregation was able to stand and be recognized! I think that speaks volumes about the commitment and the bond that we share as a church community.

This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to try filling Reverend Kim's shoes while she was on sabbatical and vacation. Thank you all for your kind support! As I enter this final semester of my studies toward Diaconal Ministry, I am so grateful for the encouragement and love you have shown me. Like everything we do at BCUC, reaching this milestone has been the work of a supportive community. I look forward with excitement to seeing what this next year has in store for us!

Wishing you God's shalom,  
Lorrie

## Church Board

After the excitement of raising the roof in 2018, 2019 was a relatively quiet and calm year at Bells Corners United Church.

At the 2019 AGM, the Church Board challenged committees to budget and spend responsibly, with a view to reducing, and ultimately eliminating, our history of deficit budgets. While our financial statements for 2019 will demonstrate that this goal was, ultimately, beyond our reach, our committees are to be commended for taking steps in the right direction and keeping the financial health of our congregation in mind when planning projects.

In spite of these financial challenges, this Annual Report document lists the many exciting new and continued projects that our committees and groups accomplished this year. Quiet years can be just as exciting as more active ones!

The Church Board met regularly on a monthly basis throughout 2019 (except in July and August). Here is a brief overview of some of the larger projects that we focused on. For a more complete list of decisions and motions made by the Board, please consult the monthly minutes from this year's meetings which are always available in the narthex and the Church Office.

- **Policy Updates:** A quick survey of the policies listed on our website reveals that many of them have not been updated for a very long time. With the help of our committees, the Board initiated the process of reviewing and updating our policies. In the next few months, we hope

that all of the policies on our website will be brought up-to-date, while additional policies (including an important Data Privacy Policy) will be added.

- The Board continued to examine the logistics and feasibility of accepting **e-transfers** as a form of payment, and plans to implement the process in early 2020.
- With the help and guidance of the M&P committee, the Board lead the congregation through some important decisions involving our **church staff**. We are happy to welcome Ruth Timms to the church office, and thank Nancy Meyers for her years of service!

These are just a few of the many activities that the Board was involved with this year and that make BCUC such an exciting place to worship! As we all know, BCUC is blessed with an excellent staff and ministry team, a long history of serving in Bells Corners, and with many active members and adherents who willingly provide resources of volunteer time and financial support to all aspects of our ministry. Again, sincere thanks to you all for another excellent year!

This will be my final Annual Report and AGM as the Chair of the Church Board. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure to serve the congregation of BCUC in this position. The time, talent, and financial generosity of every single member of this congregation is truly humbling. Our church is a remarkable place, and it takes remarkable people to make it this way. Our church will continue to be faced with financial and membership-related challenges – these are, indeed, realities that exist and persist for congregations across the country. But if I have learned anything in the past four years in my role as Co-Chair and Chair of our church Board, it is that the congregation of BCUC has the generosity, spirit, and sense of community required to tackle any challenges that are thrown our way! I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board in the role as Past Chair, and to continue to serve in new ways. My sincerest thanks to all of you for your support and respect over the past few years.

Jordan Berard, Chair, BCUC Board

## Family Ministry

The Family Ministry initiative introduced three years ago is continuing to guide our vision and decision-making at BCUC as we all strive to make this church a welcome and loving 'family'. Pre-choir family dinners, board game nights, inter-generational worship services, Christian Education experiences for all ages, choirs, Men's Club, UCW gatherings, and so much more, are examples of how we gather regularly as a church family to socialize, support, work, and worship together. Family Ministry is embedded in all that we do, and is not just present in a few scattered events.

Under the enthusiastic guidance of Rev. Camille Lipsett, the Family Ministry Team took on a more visible presence this year, holding occasional meetings and hosting new events and initiatives. In June, the team hosted a well-attended Church Picnic with a BBQ, potluck salads and desserts, and outdoor games to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year. In the Fall, a Secret Pal program was launched, matching children with an adult in the congregation. There was a great response and participants look forward to meeting their partner in the Spring! To fulfill the mandate of increasing communication with young families, members of the team spoke directly with families to gather feedback on their needs and their positive experiences. Advent calendars were purchased for families to use at home to support and encourage faith development beyond Sunday mornings.

Let's continue to embrace the mindset of Family Ministry as we move forward into the new decade!

Respectfully submitted, Erin Berard, on behalf of the Family Ministry Team



## Worship/Christian Education Committee

At the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council 2018 of the United Church of Canada, moderator nominee Rev. Dr. Martha ter Kuile stated “Like every generation of Christians, we are called to discover what it means to follow Jesus in this time and place. To do that in a season of transition and transformation, we have to become good listeners and learners. We need to pay attention to the world around us: a world which is secular and diverse and crying out for justice. This is the world God loves.”

When I first heard these words, it was almost as if I was sitting in a pew at Bells Corners United Church. Our purpose here is to promote meaningful worship and group participation in religious activities. We are also to promote knowledge of God, provide instruction in the Christian faith and promote programs for spiritual growth and Christian living.

Rev. Kim, our wise and competent minister, teaches us and challenges us on a regular basis – at Sunday worship, through Tuesday lectionary study or through ‘The Seekers’, a Monday evening study group, for example. This past year two books were studied – ‘The Real Paul’ by Bernard Brandon Scott and ‘Geering Interviews’ by Mike Grimshaw.

When Rev. Kim was off on her sabbatical and a month holiday, Lorrie Lowes, our also wise and competent ‘ministry candidate’ carried on. Lorrie, along with assistant, Erin Berard, also writes the Sunday School curriculum specifically for our children and youth activities at BCUC.

On Sunday mornings we are not only inspired, challenged and taught by the spoken word but the ministry of music plays a key role. We have Abe TeGrotenhuis, our most talented and capable choir director, organist and pianist who directs our very much appreciated and talented choirs – the Senior Choir and Grace Notes (women’s choir), accompanies the children’s and youth choir conducted by the also talented, Erin Berard. When Abe has his holiday in summer, we are blessed with Sandra Dean, also an accomplished and talented organist/pianist. The various instrumentalists such as Erin Berard and Leslie Wade are much appreciated with their gift of flute and violin. The band is a most welcome addition, specifically on the intergenerational Sundays.

In 2018 BCUC formed a group called the Progressive Learning Circle (PLC) with the intent to organize an annual learning conference that will offer participants an opportunity to be engaged and learn from exceptional theologians, scholars, authors or motivational speakers who will address relevant topics of faith, history, theology and spirituality from a progressive perspective. This year’s guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Cheri Di Novo, minister at Trinity St. Paul UC in Toronto. The theme was ‘From Charity to Social Action: Working Together to Create a Just Society’.

We have much to be grateful for at BCUC – a Sunday School growing with dedicated teachers and helpers, Camp Awesome for children of the church and community in summer, Sunday Nite Lite on various Sundays, Celebration Hymn Sing in February, Anniversary Sunday in May, Aboriginal Sunday in June, Homecoming Sunday in October, Mission Exposure Trip to El Salvador Report by Phoenix and Raven (two of our youth) – again to mention some of the many happenings in our midst. The months of June, July and August we appreciated again the help of Meighen Crow, who was sponsored by the Federal Government Student program. She conducted Summer Sunday School, helped with Camp Awesome and multiple other tasks.

Hopefully we are becoming ‘good listeners and learners’, paying attention to the world around us. Thanks is given for all the participants who strive to carry out this role at BCUC. A special thank goes to our Worship/CE Committee – Erin Berard, Ellen Boynton, Kim Culley, Tamara Glanville, Ian Howes,

Camille Lipsett, Lorrie Lowes, Sue Morrison, Abe TeGrotenhuis, Kim Vidal and Eithne Barker (Jan to June).

Also, a thank you to our dedicated office administrators, Ellen Boynton and Nancy Meyers, although Nancy moved to a permanent position in December to which we all wish her well. We are glad to have welcomed Ruth Timms.

It is good to be a part of the 'BCUC Family' where one Sunday we sing 'Happy First Birthday' to our church baby and a few Sundays later to a 'special lady' on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Truly we are a 'church family' as we strive to carry out our duties.

David Donaldson

## Music Director

What a wonderful year in music 2019 was!

- The very capable and wonderful Choir learned numerous anthems to lead worship most Sundays and had great fun doing so.
- The Grace Notes also had fun on Wednesday mornings and led worship about once per month. They sang for Friendship group on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, Peter Clark Centre on May 29<sup>th</sup>
- The "Band" continued to meet Thursday evenings and participated regularly in All-Age services.
- Memorial Hymn request service was on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> with participation from all groups
- "Story Tellin' Man" musical happened April 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>. \$1044 was collected for Mission Exposure Fund. It was a great intergenerational church project with lasting memories.
  - Huge thanks to Nancy and Erin for being key collaborators on this production
  - Kudos to the actors, ensemble and technical folk for a job well done
  - special thanks to Johanna, George and Wendy for leading costume, props and dance
  - and to Camille & Brian Lipsett for catering rehearsals after church services
- Microphone sound processors were purchased for the sanctuary sound system at this time
- Updates to main hall sound system included a shelf, speaker tripods and hidden wiring
- The Morrison's donated an early model digital piano to the music room and a new digital piano was acquired at a major discount for Shalom room. These do not require tuning, are useful for silent practice, can transpose music, and can also serve as amplifiers for portable media players. Large acoustic piano is now in the lounge room for private practice, play or concert warmup etc.
- Thank you to Sandra Dean for leading music during summer break and to all those that provided special summer music. Sandra Dean also led Christmas carolling along with David Donaldson before services in Advent. Thanks too (Sandra) for joining me in piano/organ duets.
- Choir participated in OWECC concert at St. Stephen's Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, helping to raise \$2020 for the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy.
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas concert was at new 6:30pm time, featuring our choirs, musicians and staff. \$1177 was raised for Operating fund
- Thanks to the Howes, the Boyntons, Brew Table and Zola's for hosting choir parties!

I am truly blessed to work in an environment with so many talented and dedicated individuals. Particular thanks to Erin, for all your volunteer work including the children's choirs. I'm very grateful for our staff team, A/V operators, water glass folks ... and everyone's neighbourly spirit 😊

Musically submitted, Abe TeGrotenhuis, Bells Corners United Music

## Music for Children and Youth

The Christian Generation Singers (CGS) for JK-Gr.4 and the Bell Canto Singers for Gr. 5 rehearsed Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:40 (CGS) and 6:00-7:20 (Bell Canto) from January through the end of May. Each group sang in the Worship 1-2 times per month. We enjoyed opportunities to socialize at a fun Valentine's Day party, as well as a pizza dinner followed by mini-golf to celebrate the end of the choir year.

In the Fall, the rehearsal continued in the same manner, though the Bell Canto group grew in number as several CGS 'graduated'. The CGS group had only four members making it challenging for them to sing on their own. We had the opportunity to sing out twice at Valley Stream Retirement home this Fall, once to share our favourite hymns and another to try out some favourite hymns of the residents. The choristers shared their talents at the Christmas Concert, performing individual and combined choir numbers.

Thursday night choir dinner continues to be an asset to many families, nourishing body and soul with delicious meals and great conversation! A child-friendly meal is brought in and a free-will donation is collected from participants each week. Thank you to Monica Peck and other volunteers who make this family ministry initiative happen.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Berard

## Grace Notes

We're a choir of about 18 women who meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am for practice. We sing both spiritual and secular numbers.

Every month we sing in the Sunday service, but we also sing at retirement residences and extended care facilities. On February 24th we plan to share our songs with the Friendship Club here at BCUC. We have a couple of numbers from World War Two that we especially enjoy.

This year we have a new member, Mary, who has added her lovely voice to our ensemble. We miss our dear friend Doris Stephenson, who has had to drop out for awhile due to health concerns.

There is also a social component to the Grace Notes group. Some ladies like to come just for the music and many others get together after practice for coffee and a visit. We appreciate them all.

We sing under the patient and expert direction of our director Abe TeGrotenhuis who keeps us challenged and smiling. We're always happy to include new members.

Sheryll Highstead

## **The BCUC Choir**

Another year of providing support for congregational singing and special music three Sundays/month has come and gone. We also provide choir support for funeral/memorial services when requested and are pleased to do it. Our numbers have remained stable over the past year. And we welcomed Angela Starchuk (nee Dey) back this fall along with Mary Schmieder, a new alto!

Instead of a Spring Concert, the musical, The Story Tellin' Man, was presented in late April. A number of choir members were part of the cast and it was presented on the Saturday evening with some of the parables reprised during Sunday morning's service.

At Christmas time we participated in a December 8 Music of Christmas early evening Concert when \$1,177. was raised to support the BCUC Operating Fund.

We enjoyed our usual summer and winter parties when we gather, along with our spouses, at member's homes to dine and sing and enjoy a social time together.

We continue to enjoy Abe's talented and capable musical direction. Now in his fifth year, we are always eager to participate in whatever new idea he has come up with. Thanks also to Leslie Wade and Erin Berard who share their talents by playing violin and flute to enhance our anthems. We always enjoy the addition of piano and organ cheerfully provided by Sandra Dean from time to time. Abe also coordinates a 'band' for musical support at some services. Guitars and drumming with Abe on the keyboard provide variety and extra sound during Sunday worship services. BCUC is blessed with a wealth of musical talent for which we are most grateful.

Ellen Boynton

## **UP (United People Youth Group)**

The UP Group had a busy 2019. We had many events this past year, listed below. There were as many as ten at some of these events and we welcomed two new members in the fall. Several youth participated in worship services as well.

- January - Laser Quest
- February – Worshiplude
- March – Board Game night with the congregation
- April – Fun day at Valley Stream Manor with seniors
- April – FAMSAC food drive at Loblaw's
- April – Story Tellin' Man musical presentation
- May – Garage Sale BBQ

- May – roadside cleanup along Moodie Drive
- July – Games at Valley Stream Manor
- September – Richmond Fair
- October – Board Games night
- November – Movie Night
- November – Baking with Ruth, Christmas Bazaar
- November – FAMSAC food drive unloading bus
- December – Christmas party with shopping and packing Shoe Boxes for women's shelter

## 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 inform and recommend action to 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 of Service, Outreach and Social Action to the congregation through regular Minutes for Mission, the Bell Ringer, the SOSA noticeboard, the TV at church and invitations to meetings and events by the Sunday bulletin.

**In 2019, the SOSA committee recommended** continued financial support for the following outreach ministries:

**Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC):** BCUC was a founding member of this ecumenical ministry in the low income housing communities of west Ottawa and continues to play a significant role.

In 2019 the Rev. Steve Zink, the part time chaplain, continued to offer individual and pastoral counselling for adults, martial arts for youth and a weekly Bible study cum support group at Regina Towers. He also arranged special services when requested and helped to organize the Choral Christmas Concert - OWECC's main fundraiser.

This past year the Chaplaincy was very fortunate to have the additional help of Lorrie Lowes from January to April as she was doing her field placement with OWECC. Lorrie was involved in community programs at Morrison Gardens and Pinecrest Terrace which helped to increase the confidence and skills of those participating. She built trusting relationships in several of the communities and helped with the Bible study group.

Both Steve and Lorrie planned the overnight experience in September at Camp Otterdale near Smith Falls. Due to the generosity of Camp Otterdale, local churches and individuals OWECC was able to offer families this opportunity in a lovely setting. It was the highlight of the year for several who took part.

The board of OWECC would like to thank BCUC for their continued support of the Chaplaincy.

Contact person – Peggy Aitchison.

**FAMSAC Food Cupboard:** FAMSAC celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. Beginning in 1969, when only a few people were helped at Christmas, FAMSAC has evolved into a year-round community resource. During 2019, 1125 food orders were supplied to needy families, as well as 267 Christmas hampers.

Since we moved into the storefront, most clients come to select their food items. Due to increased demand another refrigerator has been purchased so that we can supply more fresh produce, fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk and ground meat.

FAMSAC's financial outlook continues to be quite positive ,thanks to the generosity of supporting churches, local businesses, community groups and service clubs and the success of fund raising events. The Food Truck rally in August raised just over \$10,000. ST.Paul's High School, the OC Transpo food drive at the Loblaws Bells Corners, and food drives at various schools etc. have filled our shelves.

FAMSAC has joined the modern age and has digitalized our client records. All appointments are now recorded electronically, which facilitates searching for client information and forwarding to storefront volunteers.

Through the dedication and hard work of many volunteers, and the generous support of the churches, schools, businesses, groups and individuals FAMSAC has continued to fulfil its mandate to provide food assistance to needy families in our community. A sincere thank you to all who have contributed to this local mission.

Contact – Glenna Jackson

**Refuge N.O.W.** Refuge N.O.W. sponsored a mother, Mary, and her daughter, aged four, from Eritrea, in 2019. This was another joint sponsorship with the Federal Government sharing the cost, but the committee being responsible for everything else.

Mary can speak several languages, including quite a good knowledge of English. She has a cousin and family living in Ottawa, and this has helped with settling in. Mary and her daughter lived with a member of the committee for several weeks while a suitable apartment was found. Furniture and other items were gathered and members of BCUC were generous in making donations. Although it was May when the family arrived, Mary found it cold, and was worried about the prospect of winter. She appreciated the donation of clothes for her and her daughter.

Members of the committee took the family for a number of appointments to apply for documents they required. Dental work was urgently needed for both mother and daughter, and this is still being looked after. The little girl has started kindergarten at the local school and is enjoying it. Mary is attending English as a second language classes, and is thinking about possible jobs. A picnic was held for Mary and her daughter in the summer, and there was a party in December for them and for our Colombian family.

In October a fundraising dinner was held at Julian of Norwich Anglican Church, and it went well, with about 90 people from the five supporting churches attending. So, thank you to everyone at BCUC for helping these families leave behind terrible situations and find a home in Canada.

Contact – Bridget McNeill.

**Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI):** Operating since 2002, MHI provides and promotes safe, affordable housing in inclusive communities. Approximately 80 faith groups are members of MHI. MHI owns and operates 139 rental units housing between 300 and 400 residents at any given time. Housing sites are Kent House (Centretown), Blake House (Vanier), Somerset Gardens (10 condo units) and The Haven located in Barrhaven.

The most recent project is Veterans House (the Andy Carswell Building) located on the former Rockcliffe Airbase. This facility will provide supportive housing for 40 veterans. The difference between Veterans House and the other MHI sites is that the Andy Carswell Building will be veterans only while the other buildings are open to individuals/families that meet low-income requirements. (At The Haven and Somerset Gardens, 80% are for low-income tenants while 20% are rented out at regular market rates.) MHI is partnering with several organizations for the Veterans' project and Ottawa Salus will provide supportive services to the veterans who will be living there. The Andy Carswell Building is scheduled to open around Remembrance Day 2020. MHI is four-fifths of the way to complete fundraising for the project. However, 2.3million dollars is still needed to complete the 40 unit residence. There are many ways to donate. See the SOSA bulletin board for more information.

The Annual National Housing Day service took place at City Hall on November 17. The theme was "Boldly Crossing Boundaries." BCUC's participation in the annual MHI Tulipathon Walk was limited to 4 members of our congregation who raised over \$2000 for this event! This year the Tulipathon raised \$37,579.05 which was the highest total in the history of the Tulipathon.

The MHI Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, March 32, 2019. Three members of BCUC attended the meeting. As a member of MHI, BCUC is entitled to a vote on any proceedings. Updates were given on The Haven and Veterans House.

MHI is supported by our congregation through our SOSA budget. As individuals, we too can contribute to helping MHI accomplish its mission. Donations may be sent to: Multifaith Housing Initiative, 209-404 McArthur Ave, Ottawa, ON, K1K 1G8, or by donating online at [www.multifaithhousing.ca](http://www.multifaithhousing.ca). There is always a need for more volunteers. More information on MHI can be found on the website.

Contact - Barbara Bole Stafford

**Mission and Service (M&S):** The BCUC congregation has been very supportive of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada with additional donations sent to the M&S fund from individual members over and above that sent according to the general budget. The M&S fund is actively supported by monthly Minutes for Mission during the worship service and special fund-raising events with the proceeds going to the M&S Fund. Space is allocated on the SOSA bulletin board for information about M&S projects and special envelopes are available on the table in the narthex of the church.

Contact - Ellie Topp

**Interfaith Bridge Building:** The Interfaith Bridge Building Committee endeavours to provide learning opportunities about the Christian Faith and the faith of Islam. In February 2019 Imam Owais of Jami

Omar Mosque and Lorrie Lowes of BCUC talked about “Celebrations: A Year in the Life of Islam and Christianity” held at BCUC. In September the third interfaith dinner was held at Jami Omar and gave each faith group the opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere over a catered dinner. Three people gave short talks on their life and faith journeys.

BCUC representatives are Alison Bridgewater, Bridget McNeill and Lorrie Lowes

**BCUC Appeals in 2019:** SOSA took responsibility for several appeals and BCUC was very generous. These are appeals which are over and above the regular SOSA budget line in BCUC Budget 2019. The following table shows the donations.

<b>BCUC APPEALS</b>		
<b>APPEAL</b>	<b>IN SUPPORT OF</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Lenten	Camp Chipembi	\$2,170.20
Advent	Sleeping Children	\$4,912.00
SOSA Project Appeals	M&S	\$5,432.60
	MHI	\$600.00
	FAMSAC	\$2,525.00
		\$1,035.84 cash
	REFUGE N.O.W.	\$225.84 as computer supplies
	OWECC	\$600.00

**Social Action Developments:** As one reads through the accomplishments of SOSA ministries, one would readily conclude that BCUC has an outstanding outreach program of which we can all be very proud. SOSA believes that BCUC should develop a vital Social Action ministry which searches out the causes of social injustice that result in high rates of poverty. Accordingly, in 2019, SOSA has assisted BCUC in beginning to learn about causes of social injustice by looking critically at the merits and limitations of universal basic income. More such learning opportunities will be offered in the coming year.

Clarke Topp, Chair

## Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team

At BCUC, we are blessed to have a Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team of dedicated volunteers who work in partnership with our ministers, Rev. Kim Vidal and Lorrie Lowes. In 2019, the following members volunteered their time and talents to support Pastoral and Spiritual Care: Ronalie Abbey, Barbara Bole, Lynn Letcher, Suzanne Ogden, Lola Ryan, Beth Sharp, Lyn Williams and Susan Young. We owe our gratitude to many other volunteers, including members of the Men's Club and the UCW, who have generously assisted the Team by visiting friends, sending cards and helping with special events.

### Friendly Visits

The ministers and volunteer members of the team have visited many within our circle of care at home, in long-term care facilities and retirement homes.



**Hospital Visits**

The ministers and Barbara Bole, who has received specialized training, have visited many people in hospital this year.

**Pastoral Care Training**

Last fall, Lola Ryan took the Basic Pastoral Care Course and Barbara Bole took the Advanced Pastoral Care Course offered by Ottawa Pastoral Care Training.

**Prayers**

Prayer requests may be placed in the locked prayer box located in the entryway by the cloakroom. On Sundays, our ministers place these requests in the prayer chalice and offer prayers during worship services. Prayers are also offered by the ministers and members of the team in a prayer circle held at each Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team meeting.

**Cards**

A sub-team composed of Ronalie Abbey, Judy Mann and Pat Stoate have sent out many cards this year to express empathetic thoughts, sympathies, well-wishes and congratulations on behalf of the congregation.

**Learning Event**

On October 17, the Team hosted an informal talk by Ian Henderson entitled "Grief: What it is and what it isn't". The event was attended by 31 people from BCUC, Britannia, Barrhaven, Cityview and Rideau Park United Churches as well as the general Bells Corners community. Thank you to the UCW for providing refreshments for our guests.

**Death Café**

On the evening of November 12, fifteen people gathered in the Shalom Room for refreshments and an interesting conversation about death. While most participants were members of the BCUC congregation, three were visitors who had been invited by friends or who had found the event through the deathcafe.com website.

**Tea and Service of Healing and Hope**

On December 11, members of the congregation and people from the wider community joined the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team for tea and conversation in the Main Hall. Our guest speaker, Judith Campbell, offered encouraging, comforting words of hope and guided participants in a gentle meditation designed to promote self-care and healing for those experiencing grief and loss. This was followed by a service of Hope and Healing lead by Rev. Kim Vidal in the Shalom Room. Afterwards, there was an opportunity to walk the candle-lit labyrinth. Thank you to Sue Morrison, who offered guidance to those who were new to the labyrinth experience.

**A Supportive Community**

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team encourages everyone to contact the church office, one of the ministers or any member of the Team when there is a need for Pastoral Care. Your request will be treated confidentially and promptly relayed to the appropriate person for follow up. Thank you to everyone who helps make BCUC such a caring and supportive community.

Susan Young, Pastoral and Spiritual Care Coordinator

## Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

I have attended all the meetings held since the inception of the regional council. They have all been well attended and it has been very interesting to get a wider view of the nature of the United Church in the area. Ottawa Presbytery was, by its nature, an urban concentration of churches, where even the outlying charges tend to be in dormitory communities. The problems of the smaller rural churches and their neighbouring communities are very different. Many of them are finding that they no longer have medical, financial or even shopping and internet facilities on hand, and transportation becomes a serious problem for the poor and elderly.

Most of the meetings have been concerned with finalizing the format and operation of the new structure which should be completed by the one day meeting on February 22, 2020. Financial matters were also of high priority and the transition seems to have worked very smoothly within the expected parameter. Hopefully now that all the nitty gritty work is nearing completion, the region will be able to spend more time strengthening the ties within the region for the other work that used to be coordinated within the presbyteries, in areas such as youth ministries, social justice and pastoral support.

I hope to give a fuller report to the Board and the congregation after the February meeting.

Desna Sulway,  
Regional Lay Representative

## Property Management Committee

During 2019, some projects/actions were undertaken by the Property Management Committee in addition to the regular activities such as overseeing the cleaning contract, paying utility bills, minor repairs, etc. The aims of these were to maintain the church building and/or make it more useful in meeting our current needs.

1] The most significant project was the replacement of most of the smoke detectors throughout the building, some of which may have been installed at the time of construction. While they still worked, their sensitivity was not up to current standards and did not meet the fire code.

2] We switched from Bell for our phone and internet service. By switching to VOIP, we are saving a significant amount of money each month.

3] We concluded an investigation into a theft that occurred on Christmas Eve 2018, identified an individual responsible for several acts of vandalism and assisted the police in identifying thieves who used our property when trying to open a parking meter cash box. The new video camera system was invaluable in these investigations.

4] We have been working closely with the Lectionary Group on upgrades to the Shalom Room. A new wall unit has been installed and completion is anticipated in early 2020.

5] A used clothing bin was dropped on our property without our consent. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact the owner of the bin, we demolished it and took the useable contents to the Salvation Army.

## Membership

2019 Statistics	Marriages
Baptisms – 6 Marriages – 2 Funerals/Memorial Services – 20 Membership Transfers In – 10 Membership Transfers Out – 2 Adult Confirmation - 4	Beryl Cameron & Paul Desrochers – March 2019 Carolyn Allen & Bruce Leighton – October 2019

Funerals/Memorial Services in 2019– BCUC Members	Funerals/Memorial Services 2019 – BCUC Adherents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May Young</li><li>• Gwen Pollet</li><li>• Doreen Goudey</li><li>• Christena Kearns</li><li>• Larry Durst</li><li>• Neil MacDonald</li><li>• Marion Agnew</li><li>• Doris Hope</li><li>• Jim Stephenson</li><li>• Bob Southern</li><li>• Bernard Shaw</li><li>• Beth-Ann Burton Smith</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gord Frost</li><li>• Peter Coleman</li><li>• Bev Davidson</li></ul>	
	<table><tr><th>BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bernice Evans (Feb. 2, 2019)</li><li>• Anne Darwin (Feb. 2, 2109)</li><li>• Ila Jean Chapman (Apr. 2, 2019)</li><li>• Ken Millan (May 24, 2019)</li><li>• Dr. Andrew Hill (Nov. 16, 2019)</li></ul></td></tr></table>	BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)
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### Memorial Gift Donations

Keith Morrison Doreen Goudey Bob Wilson Jack Ferguson Peter Coleman Gord Frost Ann Darwin Larry Durst Margaret Eade May Young Gwen Pollet Joanne Sorrill Beth-Ann Burton Smith Millie MacDonald	Roy King Leonard Champagne Marion Agnew John Kenney Neil MacDonald Bob Mann Lois Baker Doris Hope Fred Prince Jim Stephenson Bob Southern Connie Londong Normand Beaudry Helen O'Connell
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*"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*

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

2019 has brought a few changes to the staff of Bells Corners United Church. Rev. Kim Vidal, (Minister of Word, Sacraments and Spiritual & Pastoral Care) continues to be our main source of spiritual leadership and guidance. Rev. Kim took a well-deserved three-month sabbatical augmented with four weeks of holidays over the summer months. Lorrie Lowes (Candidate for Diaconal Ministry), continued her  $\frac{3}{4}$  time work for BCUC and stepped in for the whole Sabbatical period as a full-time substitute. Lorrie continued her studies towards Diaconal Ministry with graduation scheduled for 2020. Abe TeGrotenhuis (Music Director), continued to lead and coordinate the musical elements of worship with a wonderful mix of old favourites and more contemporary music, mixed with occasional jazz. Nancy Meyers (Office Administration) worked most of the year before giving her notice in November to pursue full time work with a national medical association. Ellen Boynton (Office Administration) maintained the efficient office function over the year and during December as M&P sought and found a new part-time Administrator. Ruth Timms was hired in late December to begin work in January 2020. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who pitched in to help during these changes.

For a third time, BCUC received federal government funding as part of the student works program to hire another summer student. Meighen Crow was hired for the summer and was very effective during her second round of summer work for the church.

James Eaton tendered his resignation from Ministry & Personnel in December and David Stafford agreed to coordinate the committee until the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, the Nominations Committee continues to find more volunteers for this important BCUC Activity.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Stafford, Interim Chair

## Men's Club

BCUC Men's Club was organized to provide an opportunity for men to gather for coffee and conversation with the occasional lunch or dinner and speaker. This has been the pattern for many years. All this was organized through an Executive of people who manages the various functions of planning, executing and ensuring things ran smoothly.

During 2019, the Men's Club activities were low key as we sought new people to fill vacancies on the Executive. The highlight was dinner with guest speaker Councilor Rick Chiarelli who gave an update of new construction plans and activities within the Bells Corners area.

A new concept for coffee gatherings was suggested and has been held from 10 to 11:30 am each Friday during the Fall, with an average 15 people attending. Many thanks to Ian Howes for managing this activity and to wife Ruth for throwing in occasional home-made cookies!

The years ended with \$1,573.79 in the bank and another \$55.18 on the Tim's Coffee card, for a total asset of \$1,628.97.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Stafford  
President

## Communications

Communications committee continues to improve how BCUC makes its presence and programs known.

### Within BCUC

- Weekly BCUC Happenings email messages and our TV monitors have continued to inform and promote BCUC programs. These items are about to celebrate their second anniversary.
- The Art Wall continues to acknowledge the artistically talented people of BCUC.
- Reworking of the bulletin boards continued in 2019 and will continue in 2020.
- The Communications Committee also covered the expense of office supplies as requested by the office staff.

### In the Community

- The BCUC web site has been successfully received and continues to improve.
- BCUC's web site has had over 5,800 unique visitors. Over 3,000 visits in 2019 to date came via searches, 50% of which came through Google.
- BCUC Facebook Group was created and over 1,000 people have viewed our Facebook content

Olly Chuchryk, Contact

## Finance

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

The major activities in 2019, similar to previous years, consisted of the following activities:

- managing the annual financial planning and implementation cycle by preparing an annual general budget including forecasts of expenses and revenues for approval by the Board and Congregation;
- managing banking services and bookkeeping services to meet church financial requirements;
- tracking, recording and safeguarding the financial transactions (income and expenses) throughout the year for the operating, committee directed and capital funds;
- organizing and presenting regular reports to the Church Board;
- issuing tax receipts for donations; 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 the Sage 50 system that is vital to an effective year-end audit review. The volunteers include the Sunday tellers (organized by Bob and Barb Noyes); the event treasurers (example Mary Jones for the Christmas Fair), the Directed Fund Coordinator (Bob Boynton), the envelope secretary (Griz Morrison) who keeps track of all donations for tax receipt purposes using Church Watch, the PAR Coordinator (Ross Mutton), the Securities Coordinator (Brian Durno) and Gift Certificate Program Coordinator (Alan Bentley to April).

The overall 2019 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 2019:

(Unaudited as of Jan 27)	<u>Summary Actual 2019</u>		<u>Budget Plan 2019</u>	
	<u>Revenues (est)</u>	<u>Expenses (est)</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operating Fund (*) (**)	\$ 416,609	\$ 429,685	\$ 432,300	\$ 432,300
Committee Directed Funds (#)	\$ 55,018	\$ -35,271	n/a	n/a
Capital Directed Funds (#)	\$ 41,069	\$ -52,254	n/a	n/a

(\*) Operating expenses include \$39,500 for M&S and \$14,949 for EOOR (replaces Presbytery).

(#) For details of Directed Funds, see report "Status of Directed Funds as of 2019/12/31".

The Gift Certificate program produced a surplus of \$2,160. The BCUC fund raising events (Spring Garage Sale, Christmas Bazaar and other events) brought in a total of \$23,864. Rental income and fees amounted to \$69,561 from all sources.

The securities held for the Operating Fund were valued at \$32,112 on Dec 24, 2019. The dividends earned go toward the Moodie Scholarship (\$200) and the Building Mtc & Repair Fund (\$1,447).

The Auditors Report for the year ending December 31, 2019 and the 2020 budget documents will be released on Sunday February 23, 2020 (one week prior to the AGM).

I thank the volunteer members of the FMC who contributed their time and effort to the committee in 2019, and the members of the Congregation for continuing their strong financial support of BCUC.

Bill Johnson, Chair Financial Management

## Raise the Roof

The Raise the Roof Committee completed its mandate to raise funds to replace the BCUC Roof.

We started the year with a fund balance of \$ 2,594.87 and outstanding loans of \$ 35,000.

By December 31, 2019 all loans were repaid and there was a small surplus in the account resulting from a refund of tax on roofing materials.

At our final meeting in September the Committee approved a motion to recommend to the Board that the Raise the Roof Committee be disbanded and that any remaining funds in the Roof Fund be returned to the BCUC Board.

The Roof Committee thanks everyone who made this possible.

Bert Donnelly, Chair

Committee Members: Doug McKechnie- Past Chair, Bob Boynton, Ruth Howes, Bill Johnson, Gordon Ritcey

## Garage Sale

Again this year the May 11 Garage Sale was well supported and realized a profit of \$4,782 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, cookies and drinks area adds significantly to the day's pleasure. We were missing Kim's spring rolls this year since she was on sabbatical.

Leftovers mostly go to Salvation Army. An e-waste trailer was available for recycling. Thanks to Alex and Kim Culley for providing a destination for leftover women's clothing to the Royal Ottawa Hospital. 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. Ruth Abbott sorted boxes of books for resale at the Centennial Library. The rest went to Salvation Army.

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 enjoy fellowship among members of the congregation.

Bob & Ellen Boynton

## **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 \$13,483.

In 2019, 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. (Mary Jones, Ellen Boynton)

## **UCW (United Church Women)**

There are two units which meet in the daytime as none of the ladies in those units work outside the home. Two units still meet in the evening, so our availability suits almost all women in the congregation.

The UCW calendar is very similar year over year. January we make turkey pies to sell to the congregation (usually about 750). Orders are taken Sundays before the three days of pie making. Pies must be picked up the day they are made as they are not frozen. January/February is also kitchen clean-up when inventory is taken and items replaced. February all the units meet together and have a guest speaker. We participate in the Spring Garage Sale in May. We bake the cakes/tea biscuits and provide staff for the kitchen for the annual Strawberry Social in June.

In October/November the units each bake their contributions for the Christmas Bazaar held in mid-November. In October we make turkey pies to sell at the bazaar (about 230). Gift baskets are prepared, wrapped and priced on the Friday before the Bazaar. This is the first year we have not hosted a Veterans Breakfast, as there are no more veterans in our congregation.

Each of the four units has their own activity to raise money and the recipient of these monies is a unit group decision which has nothing to do with UCW as a whole or BCUC. This donation is made at our Christmas Potluck dinners. Our general meetings are May and September with a potluck supper at the church. Guest speakers join us for the meal. At any time during the year we try to accommodate catering for funeral requests which 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 sincere thanks to the UCW kitchen representative Pat Stoate, for her constant care.

Our executive meetings are held in the Shalom Room the last Monday of each month, excluding December and summer. UCW is able to provide substantial funds for church capital needs as well as making annual donations to the United Church Mission & Service Fund and a chosen list of charities. Thanks to Christine Holstead for her steady hand on the finances.

Please remember that all women in the United Church are technically members of the UCW and we would love to have you attend our meetings! Please contact the church office for details.

Nancy Lusk,  
UCW Secretary

## Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES: Jan Pound, Bev Cromb, Ruth Howes, David Maxwell, Ross Mutton, Denis Watson, Vernon Sulway

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

During 2019 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) Negotiated annual insurance, currently with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company,
- (e) Confirmed insurance for the Union Cemetery, (provided by Christ Church Anglican)
- (f) Mitigated risk through the ongoing application of the BCUC Risk Management Plan, and the Covenant of Care form.
- (g) Updated the inventory of BCUC property for insurance purposes.
- (h) Submitted a Budget to the BCUC Board

Resources needed in 2020:

Liability and Abuse Insurance for renewal of Policy November 29, 2020 of approximately \$11,000 + Ontario Sales Tax



## 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 registered charitable organisation, operated by the Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 of Ontario.

The board consists of Vernon Sulway (Chair), Trevor Morrison and Peggy Smyth of the United Church and Cathy Ginn (Co-Chair), Bill Irwin (Treasurer), and Colin Franklin representing the Anglican Church. The Ministers from the two churches (Kathryn Otley of the Anglican Church and Kim Vidal from the United Church) are ex-officio members of the board. The board met three times during the year and kept in touch through email and telephone.

Revenue in 2019 (compared to 2018) was \$5,574 (\$5,556) with expenses of \$4,662 (\$4,488). There was one full burial and one interment of cremated remains.

Revenue		Expenses	
Donations	\$2,860	Grounds	\$2,825
Interment Fees	550	Hedge trim	950
		Foundation Monument Repair	108
Investments	<u>2,164</u>	Administration	<u>779</u>
	<u>\$5,574</u>		<u>\$4,662</u>

The annual Memorial Service was held on September 8. Rev. Kim Vidal of the United Church conducted the service, with about 35 people attending.

There were numerous improvements made to the grounds of the Cemetery this year. We worked with the Anglican Church and the City of Ottawa to have the storm drain grate raised at the entry to the Cemetery, making access much safer. A dozen upright markers were noted to be seriously tilted and arrangements have been made to have them repaired in the spring. Bob and Peggy Williams have refurbished the bench in the Cemetery, straightening the supports and installing new seating. We thank them for their excellent work.

The grounds were well kept by Glen Soubliere, sub-contractor for Kare-Mor Ent. Co. Ltd. Richard Eade helped with work associated with the burials. Thanks to our Treasurer Bill Irwin who prepares our Annual Financial Report and reports to Revenue Canada and the Registrar of Cemeteries in Ontario. By-Laws for the Cemetery have been updated & approved by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

Vernon Sulway, Catherine Ginn

Email: [bellscorners.unioncemetery@gmail.com](mailto:bellscorners.unioncemetery@gmail.com)

## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee concentrated its activities on the annual Stewardship Campaign, which takes place in the last two weeks of January. In early December, the printed material for the campaign is reviewed for changes. Most changes occur in the Time and Talent listing, but the coloured brochure also needs an annual update. The church database CHURCHWATCH is accessed for member and adherent mailing information, and current activities. We do not use and do not have access to financial information.

Individualized mailing envelopes, return envelopes, financial pledge (blue) forms and Time and Talent (pink) forms are printed, and as well, the listing of activities on the Time and Talent form. The folks in the Church Office print the coloured brochure. Then the material is assembled for delivery by Circuit Messengers and mailing in mid-January.

This kicks off the Stewardship campaign, and, two weeks later, we host a Soup and Sandwiches event after the morning service. This involves the preparation of 25 litres of soup and 360 sandwich quarters. The Committee, mainly Bob Boynton and Bob Noyes, also prepare for a Committee Fair to launch the Stewardship Campaign. This Fair familiarizes members and adherents with the many possibilities for personal growth and service available in the Church family. Unlike 2019, in 2020 we did not have to repeat the Fair because of weather.

The Stewardship returns are tabulated by Ron Prince and used by the Financial Management people for budgeting, and the Time and Talent forms are used to update the church database. This year we prepared about 340 Stewardship packages, and about half will be returned. If a member or adherent does not return a package we assume that there is no change to their financial intentions or participation in church activities.

In 2021 we hope to send a large portion of our material electronically; we had a trial run with four vacationing members in 2020. This will include all the material except a return envelope.

Committee members are Bob Boynton, Bob and Barb Noyes, Ron Prince, with help from minister Rev Kim Vidal and Bill Johnson of Financial Management, as well as the capable office administrators Nancy and Ellen.

Bill McGee