

Bells Corners United Church 2021 Annual Report



Bells Corners United Church

REJOICE, RENEW, RESPOND, REACH OUT

2021Annual Report

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Office Information Bells Corners United Church

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Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal	kim.vidal@gmail.com revkim@bcuc.org	820-8103
Diaconal Minister	Rev. Lorrie Lowes	Lorrielowes12@gmail.com lorrie@bcuc.org	820-8103
Music Director	Abe TeGrotenhuis	music@bcuc.org	820-8103
Office Administrators	Ellen Boynton Ruth Timms	office@bcuc.org	820-8103

2021 CHURCH BOARD

Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal
Minister	Rev. Lorrie Lowes
Chair	Jordan Berard (Acting)
Past Chair	Jordan Berard
Chair Elect	
Secretary	Will Wightman
Ministry & Personnel	David Stafford
Financial Management	Bill Johnson
Members at Large	Norm Pound Ellen Boynton Susan Young
EOORC	Nicole Beaudry Desna Sulway Vernon Sulway (to Feb)
Youth Consultation	
Young Adult Consultation	Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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 Ministers and Friendly Visitors.

Pastoral Counseling: The Ministers 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 Ministers.

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. (suspended during 2020/21)

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,

I thought 2021 will be a different year than 2020. I thought we would be able to go back to our regular worship services and indoor gatherings without so many restrictions. I thought our children and young people would be back in-person with their programs and activities. But I was completely wrong in my thinking and assumptions. The year 2021 proved to be a continuation of the "new normal" that we experienced in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Only this time, we became more adaptive to the existing realities – the continued use of masking, two metre distancing, hand sanitizing, partial and restricted gatherings and yes, vaccination! All year we did our best to promote safety and comply with the public health regulations. In the midst of these new realities, I'm still happy to say that we have again survived the challenges of the pandemic in 2021 with God's grace and blessings. Surely, we were not alone in our predicament!

In 2021, we offered our worship services in a number of ways: (1) a hybrid onsite worship service from July 11 – December 12, 2021, which employed both "live" and "recorded" parts with a maximum number of 58 people. The biggest attendance we have had was about 40 people. It was disappointing to note that we were not able to have an onsite worship service on Christmas Eve. With the help of volunteer ushers and the worship team, the in-person Sunday services were held in an orderly, safe fashion; (2) a fully recorded weekly service (year-round) posted on YouTube, Facebook and the church website; (3) an audio recording of the weekly service available via telephone; and (4) sending the full text of the service via email.

Our congregation was truly blessed with many people who were able to share their time, talents and treasures in making our worship life feasible to everyone. Thanks to our music director, Abe TeGrotenhuis

for his gifts, not only of music, but especially for his gift of technology. In late September of 2021, Abe and his family were confronted with grief and loss in the passing of Abe's beloved wife, Susan. The whole BCUC congregation grieved with the TeGrotenhuis family with this unprecedented loss. Abe took several weeks of bereavement leave and Abe's technical support was taken over by several members of the church. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to those who came forward to help during Abe's absence: Rick & Sue Morrison, Griz Morrison, Angela Starchuk, Ken Kim, Dietrich & Albrecht Magno and our office admins, Ruth Timms & Ellen Boynton. I also wish to express my thanks to Connie Davidson for maintaining our website, to Erin Berard for her wonderful gifts shared with us in many ways, to all the Storytime leaders, to the different choirs who provided music (the BCUC Choir, Grace Notes, BCUC Band, the CGS and Bell Canto), to the readers, candlelighters, ushers, members of the Worship/CE Committee, for my wonderful team ministry partner, Rev Lorrie Lowes for her leadership and to all who made our worship life engaging, welcoming and inclusive.

In 2021, people were encouraged to keep in touch with each other through phone calls, emails, cards, letters, Zoom, Facebook and prayers. The Pastoral & Spiritual Care Team offered visits through phone calls, emails, short personal friendly visits and by sending cards. The team held simultaneous Wednesday prayer circles at 8 pm in the comfort of their homes lifting prayers for those who requested prayers and those in long-term care. The team also participated in a series of Zoom Learning Events about Care for the Aging and co-organized a Healing Service during Advent. Thanks to Susan Young, Beth Sharp, Barbara Bole, Ron Knox, Nancy Power-Fardy, Rev, Lorrie and to our energetic card monitors, Ronalie Abbey and Judy Mann.

Christian Education was offered via online in 2021. Rev. Lorrie and Erin Berard put together regular Sunday School resources for families. I also did my part when it was my turn to do the children's time. Thanks as well to Liam Eaton, our summer student who helped put together the materials in the summer. In terms of adult study, Rev. Lorrie and I facilitated the regular Lectionary Group held every Tuesday morning. Through the rich and engaging discussions, both Rev. Lorrie and I gained so much insight, understanding, wholesome exegesis and relevant background information on the texts that we preached.

Social action, partnership work and interfaith bridge-building continued to be a top priority. Thanks to members of the Service, Outreach and Social Action (SOSA) Committee for their indefatigable participation and involvement in many of the outreach programs. We supported and continue to support the Zambia Partnership project spearheaded by Rev. Lorrie with overwhelming support from our congregation. Well done!

For the first time in more than 20 years, we missed David's Flowers in the summer of 2021. David Donaldson had been very generous in sharing the gifts of his beautiful garden year after year. Although the flowers were not part of our fundraising events in 2021, David welcomed many visitors to his farm. We look forward to having David's Flowers next summer.

Talking about fundraising, the Outdoor Market held in October helped add income to our operating fund. Thanks to the leadership of Ellen & Bob Boynton, Ruth Howes and the UCW, and the many volunteers who made the market a success.

The commitment and strong leadership of the Church Board has been inspiring. A big thanks to Jordan Berard, Will Wightman, Norm Pound, Bill Johnson, Ellen Boynton, Susan Young, David Stafford, Desna Sulway, Mark McDonald (guest) and Rev. Lorrie Lowes. Before the end of 2021, long-time treasurer and Finance Committee chair for 17 years, Bill Johnson, relinquished his duties to Ross Mutton and Bill McGee. We are grateful for Ross and Bill M. to have accepted the torch of financial responsibility passed

on by Bill J. We are also grateful for all the members and chairs/co-chairs of the various committees and everyone who stepped up and volunteered their time, talents and treasures. You are all amazing!

We celebrated one adult and two infant baptisms in 2021. We welcomed Mark McDonald on March 21, Cian James Roy Morris on August 29 and Makenzie Bertrand Thomas on October 17. I also officiated the wedding service of Monique Bellefeuille and Tim MacMillan on November 6 in the church sanctuary. It was also joyful to have welcomed new members on October 30: Simon and Ruby Linforth and Rev. Victor and Sally Lujetic.

If we had many joys in 2021, we also had moments of sorrow particularly with the passing of some of our beloved members and adherents. We give thanks for the lives of: Dorothy Donaldson, Vernon Sulway, Gord Ritcey, Sophie Manuel, Allan Webster, Eula Smith, Susan TeGrotenhuis, Lois Donaldson, Shirley Hughes, Gerald Cann and Jack Calderwood.

On a personal note, in addition to the several webinars and learning events that I have attended in 2021, I am pleased to have been accepted in the Backstory Mentorship Preaching Program which is a continuing education opportunity in improving my preaching skills and spirituality. This 10-month program started in August 2021 and will continue until May 2022. I also became involved in the Filipino Network of UCC Clergy and Lay that met on a monthly basis.

Finally, I would not have been able to accomplish what I have achieved in 2021 without the support of my faithful and hardworking colleagues: Lorrie, Ruth, Ellen and Abe. I am so blessed to be sharing this ministry with them.

On behalf of Ken, Justin and Jacob, I look forward to our congregational life in 2022 and beyond, knowing that we will embrace every opportunity to rejoice, respond, renew and reach out! We will continue to become the faith community that God calls us to be here and now. Let us keep our faith alive!

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Kim

Diaconal Minister

My dear friends,

I think we can all agree that this pandemic has over-stayed its welcome! We are tired and feeling isolated from each other, and we are still worried about the long-term effects of all of this. I'm right there with you. Much as I try to stay positive, there are still some heavy days for me too. But, as I look back through my calendar in preparation for this report, my spirits are lifted. In spite of it all, we have continued to be the church in amazing ways. We have made a difference, even from the confines of our homes.

We have continued to worship, only sometimes in the sanctuary, but always with the accessibility of video, audio, text, and telephone when gathering wasn't possible. We have even been able to socialize in a virtual "room" with our Friday afternoon Happy Hours and Sunday Fellowship after the service. I often marvel at how vital this modern technology is at a time like this. It makes me weep to think how

different things were when the Spanish Influenza hit - true isolation and little communication in a very scary time! I know that seeing your faces on screen has made this journey easier for me and I hope it has lifted your spirits as well. But still, I miss you all... Think of all the things we have accomplished even beyond worship together this year:

Through the wonders of the internet, we have been able to offer Sunday School resources and choir gatherings for our children. We have continued to learn together with our Lectionary Study and GLI presentations. We have stopped waiting for things to change before we mark life's important milestones like baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Our committees and our Board have continued their important work. We have cared for each other with phone calls, emails, cards and prayers. Even our building itself was not just well maintained, but opportunities were taken to make improvements and to "freshen things up".

We continued to reach out to those beyond our congregation as well. Our SOSA Committee not only ensured that our commitments were made to community organizations like FAMSAC and OWECC, MHI, and Mission & Service, but also initiated outreach projects like the Zambia Building Project and joint community projects with our friends and neighbours at the Jami Omar mosque. Together we thanked the hospital cleaning staff with treats, coffee, and beautiful surgical caps in the summer, and we supported the downtown mission with hats, socks and gloves for Ottawa's homeless population this winter.

Beyond this work we did together, some personal highlights for me this year have been:

- Supporting our indigenous family in the vigil on Parliament Hill after the discovery of so many children's remains near Residential Schools,
- Training to become a Labyrinth Facilitator,
- Officiating two weddings (one of which was for a student of mine when she was in grade 3!),
- Working together with other churches in the area, both United Churches and other denominations on projects dear to all our hearts, and taking part in an Inter-Faith Prayer event,
- Working with a network of Diaconal colleagues here in Canada and around the world,
- Working with the amazing staff and volunteers who keep BCUC going.

As we head into our Annual Meeting, we know that we will be asked to face some of the hard realities that these two years of pandemic have created in terms of finances and other struggles, but I ask you to remember the wonderful things this past year has brought as well. We will get through this together, knowing that we are truly a family of faith and knowing that God journeys with us every step of the way.

Love and Blessings,
Rev. Lorrie

Church Board

In 2021, the BCUC Board continued to focus on adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on our ability to hold in-person worship services, host social events, and rent out our building to external groups. Monthly (sometimes weekly!) changes to provincial and local mandates surrounding COVID-19 made for some difficult decisions and conversations during Board meetings, but we were blessed to have been lead in our pandemic-related decision-making this year by our BCUC COVID-19 Worship Commission, lead by Sue Morrison and the Worship/CE Committee.

We are grateful to have been able to safely open our doors for the better part of 2021 to in-person services and a return of some of our social groups, rentals, and events. At *all* times, BCUC has prioritized and adhered to the province's and Ottawa Public Health's pandemic requirements for places of worship, including social distancing, masking, sanitizing, and other safety protocols. When in-person services have been permitted, they have been safe, well-coordinated, and much appreciated by those in attendance as a result of a collective, compassionate willingness to care for each other by following all safety guidelines. We also ensured that the province's requirements for vaccine mandates for social gatherings and rental groups were clearly communicated and adhered to by users of our building. On behalf of the Board and the congregation, I want to express sincere gratitude both to everyone who has made it possible to worship and gather safely in our building, when permitted, by following and enforcing public health regulations compassionately and consistently, as well as to those who have contributed their amazing talents to the online services that have kept us all connected as a congregation. Where other churches have suffered with keeping their congregations connected, BCUC has flourished.

I would be remiss to not use this space to once again thank Bill Johnson for his many years of service to our congregation as Treasurer and Chair of the Financial Management Committee. Bill's voice and wisdom will be missed at the Board table. Thank you for guiding our congregation through good times and bad times, Bill. Through years of plenty and years of literal pandemic!

Once again, our 2022 AGM will focus on plans for a "normal" year, while also understanding the need to continue to be flexible. While much has remained quite "abnormal" about this year, the financial statements for 2021 demonstrate the tremendous generosity of the congregation, and necessary levels of flexibility by committees to an unexpected situation. We may not yet be as active as we were before the pandemic, but big things are still being done at BCUC! After years (decades?) of discussion, we finally built our portico!

As continues to be evident during the most difficult of times, 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. Please accept my sincere thanks to you all for another excellent year!

Finally, though things are starting to look quite promising in our fight against COVID-19, it is inevitable that our church will continue to be faced with financial, membership, and other challenges in the coming year. But, do you know what? I am not concerned; because the congregation of BCUC continues to demonstrate that it has the generosity, flexibility, spirit, and sense of community required to tackle any challenges that are thrown our way!

Jordan Berard
Chair, BCUC Board

Worship/Christian Education Committee

Too much of 2021 turned out to be just like most of 2020, unfortunately, but we got better at pivoting between onsite and online only worship services. And most of the rest of what we were able to do was online for the entire year.

Sue Morrison chaired all committee meetings with Co-Chair David Donaldson as a resource person when able. All meetings were conducted by Zoom which worked quite well. In March we welcomed Rev. Karen Boivin to the Committee and in June Angela Starchuk joined as an UP leader. During the year the Marriage/Wedding policy was updated for adding to church policy manual.

Kim continued to prepare plans and provide for Sunday services throughout the liturgical year with Lorrie conducting services once a month. Lorrie was responsible for Children's Time with help at times from Kim, Erin, Nicole Beaudry, Karen Boivin, Sue Morrison through the year. Lorrie and Erin prepared curriculum for online Sunday School to follow worship themes.

Worship/CE Committee continued through the year as a Board-appointed Commission to monitor provincial and Ottawa Public Health requirements pertaining to on-site worship, and to implement the prescribed COVID screening and safety protocols as they change throughout the pandemic. Each month the Church Board received the Commission's report and mandated it to continue for the next month. It was the Commission's duty to ensure that onsite services were conducted with COVID protocols in place, in particular screening, social distancing and masking to keep the congregation safe. Onsite services were suspended at the end of 2020 and resumed mid-February. Shutdown again came April 4 and we reopened mid-July until mid-December as variants came and subsided. Average onsite attendance was about 25 in early months and seating plans were in place with unused pews roped off. As time went on pew ropes were removed, green tape indicated safe distancing and people could choose their pew. Unlimited numbers, as long as distanced seating could be maintained, were allowed but never more than 50 attended. Throughout the year, even when on-site services were suspended, worship was offered in several formats: online YouTube video, audio recording on one of the church telephone lines, and in written form for reading.

Services and announcements were available on the church website, sent to the congregation weekly by e-mail and also to area retirement residences for printing and distribution to BCUC members who are residents there. Voice2Net provided telephone access to services, but later in the year it was recognized that announcements were missing. On a weekly basis, Ellen now provides a few verbal announcements for the telephone version of the service.

Since all services were prepared electronically, it meant that the Blue Christmas Service, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Stewardship were all done for online presentation. Many were audio only.

The HymnSing initiative directed special donations to enhancing worship and 13 requests were received which became part of worship services over several weeks.

Kim conducted a summer online Bible Study on the Book of Lamentations which also was her summer sermon theme. In late summer she began a BackStory Preaching Mentorship Program in addition to her weekly duties at BCUC. One service highlight was mid-June Camping Sunday when creative fun was enjoyed by all who participated and those who watched online.

In late summer the Committee was pleased to receive the donation from the Watson family of Cynthia Watson's Steinway baby grand piano. It was located in the Sanctuary and the Yamaha relocated to the children's library alcove until a permanent location is found. A dedication was held on November 21 with a suitable plaque installed and the plan for a concert when it can be held safely. At the same time the newly built Portico was dedicated. The portico provides protection from rain and sun and is a welcome addition to our entryway.

Three weddings, eight celebration of life services were held on and offsite, three baptisms, and four transfers of membership in services were held through the year. Thank you is extended to Grace Runions who has served as congregational lay representative for many years for baptism and membership services, and who has now retired. Bev Wilcox has agreed to take over the duties.

Abe TeGrotenhuis continued to provide top quality musical support to Sunday services as well as technical support for creating the online service. Along with Connie Davidson, our Webmaster, the congregation was able to enjoy fine weekly online services. In September Abe had to take time away to deal with the illness and death of his wife Susan. Sue Morrison stepped in to provide video editing to support the creation of the Sunday online video services, Angela Starchuk oversaw the projection onsite, and Ken Kim assisted with uploading to YouTube. This continued to the end of the year. In April Abe celebrated one year of having a YouTube channel. He noted that 200 music recordings had been made and eventually he pulled hymns out of services individually for posting on YouTube, so that each could be enjoyed individually more easily. He then began to report on the numbers of views various hymns had received, which was a source of interest and sometimes curiosity and amazement.

Abe conducted several gatherings of distanced choir members over the year to record hymns for services. On December 9 choir gathered safely distanced with new 'singing masks' to prepare some Christmas anthems. Alas, only one time was possible before a shutdown stopped it. Abe revisited earlier choir concerts and anthems and has used those in services. A search is currently on to find a used 'new to us' laptop for use in providing onsite Sunday services. And to keep choir feeling together, regular Thursday evening Zoom gatherings have been held with all yearning for a time of singing together once again.

Erin Berard has provided wonderful CGS/Bell Canto support using Google Meet. Several times in the year she has had the children singing in online services and also had them create some art to illustrate the theme. Her choir numbers remain consistent and she had a few new CGS in the fall!

Christian Education remained challenging with pandemic restrictions. An online confirmation class was offered but declined until face to face classes can happen. Camp Awesome was offered online only for a second year. Family Lent and Advent packages were distributed for use in the home. They were popular with the children and their parents. No UP programs were held. Bottle and can drives were continued, with the UP bank account building for good future activities. Family Ministry planned activities are on hold until people can meet face-to-face.

Lorrie took a labyrinth facilitator course and looks forward to offering programs. A candlelit Advent labyrinth evening was held in early December. Plans are also on hold for landscaping and adding a bench to the outdoor labyrinth.

The Zambia Partnership Project continued with an amazing total of \$12,500 raised by year end towards the agreed upon project funded by BCUC and Emmanuel United Church of a church/community building in Chipembi. Once enough funds for the building have been raised, money will still be needed for the ongoing support of the annual Camp Chipembi (their version of Camp Awesome).

Thank you to all who enable BCUC to have a rich, engaging worship community, to Kim and Lorrie who provide weekly meaningful worship services, to Abe who provides us with amazing inspirational music, to Sue and David who guide the work of the Worship/CE Committee and to all members of the committee who provide ideas and support for bringing plans to fruition.

Ellen Boynton, Secretary

Music Director

Let's start with some definite highlights:

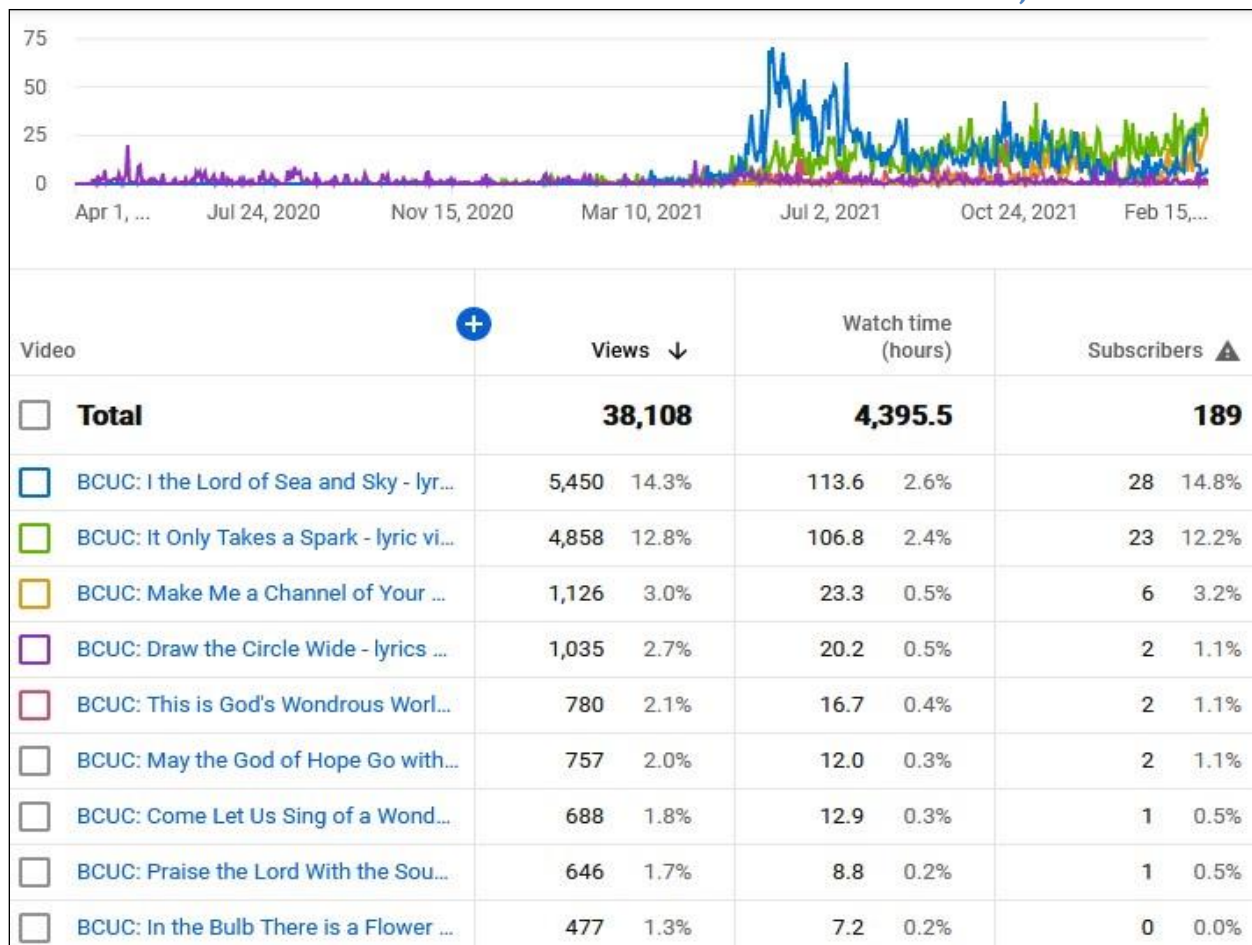


- **A fully refurbished Steinway baby grand piano** was generously donated to BCUC by Denis Watson in memory of Cynthia Watson. A set of wheels and humidifier was purchased and Ellen made a quilted cover to protect it.
- **Our YouTube Channel has been active nearly 2 years** (since Apr 1 2020)
 - We continue to produce Sunday videos averaging 100 views per service.
 - I uploaded over 70 hymns as lyric videos in March for other churches to use.

- The channel became very active in June as the hymn selections were discovered and shared around the world with particular interest in "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" which now has over 5000 views!

- "It Only Takes a Spark" is also making a run for 5000 and "Make Me a Channel" has overtaken our classic Erin action video "Draw the Circle Wide" for 3rd place as seen in the chart below:

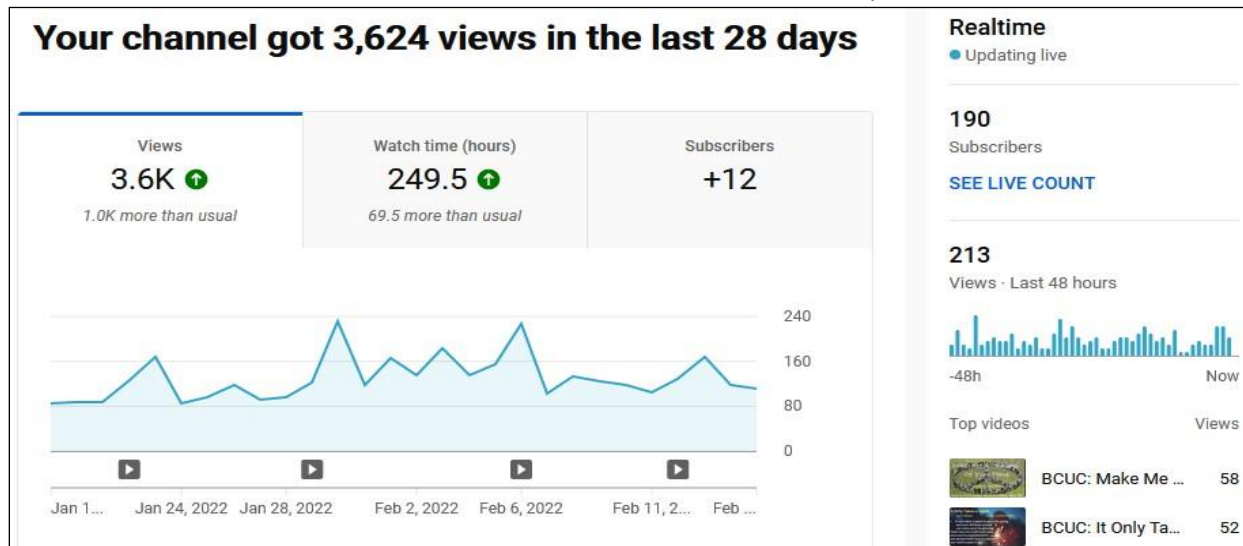
TOP YouTube VIDEOS over channel lifetime as of Feb 15, 2022:



* Note that a view/click is counted by YouTube regardless if the video was watched in whole or in part which will explain why “watch time” above isn’t a direct multiplication of views by length of video. We currently have 190 subscribers (see chart below as of Feb 16 2022) which is interesting because it is not necessary to “subscribe” with a YouTube account to see our videos but it does indicate folks who wish to be notified the moment we upload new material.

We have had requests from across Canada (and the UK today!) for permission to use our music in their services! The channel has recently been busier than ever with over 80 views every day across all videos:

YouTube channel statistics on Feb 16, 2022:



When we returned to the sanctuary occasionally for services we would play the recorded video and music on the big screen interspersed with LIVE spoken parts. Kim and Lorrie have continued to smile into the camera, while also preparing the (powerpoint) slides we use for lyrics and backgrounds. Incredible effort from the volunteer backup team in continuing the production of videos from mid September through the end of 2021 when I had to take a leave of absence.

Very special recognition to **Angela Starchuk** for grasping the service production & presentation ropes and finding helpers: **Sue Morrison** for learning in the first week and producing full length videos for 15 weeks(!), **Ken Kim** for uploading to YouTube and **Dietrich & Albrecht Magno** for Sunday projection. The team was able to access an archive of all our hymn recordings of the previous 18 months, which I had uploaded to our online repository, to continue including music in the service videos.

A service of note was our virtual “Day at Camp” Service in June. A definite peak for me!

In other news:

- No Congregational Singing, Live Choirs or Bands all year!
- The Grace Notes and Sanctuary Choir tried to stay connected through phone calls, emails and video (zoom) meetings, but gatherings to make recordings were few and far between.
- The Music team continued to make recordings from home
- CGS/BellCanto provided nearly monthly offerings under Erin’s direction
- Memorial Hymn requests were accommodated across six weeks of videos in Lent

- The full choir did recordings for Lent and Easter using microphones setup in the far corners of the sanctuary, narthex, balcony and entranceway like we did in 2020.
- In April we limited to three distanced per recording session before being shutdown once again.
- An audio recording of a past Spring and Christmas concert was offered in May and December respectively in place of a live event.
- 15 members of the choir did have one Christmas rehearsal in the main hall in early December using our newly purchased singing masks and distanced, before yet another wave of concern.

2021 definitely had some highs and some very lows, but I'm so blessed to work with a super talented and dedicated ministry team. Particular thanks to Erin, for all her work around the children's music and learning to mix her children's choir music herself! I'm also very grateful for an incredibly supportive Church community and M&P, particularly over the last year with the loss of Susan.

Blessings to you all.

Musically submitted, Abe TeGrotenhuis, Bells Corners United Music

Music for Children and Youth

A whole year of virtual music-making!

The Christian Generation Singers (CGS) for JK-Gr.4 and the Bell Canto Singers for Gr. 5 and up continued to rehearse virtually together on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15 using Google Meet and Google Classroom applications. In the early part of the year, nine participants joined in regularly and most recorded their voices individually at their own homes, uploaded these recordings to be mixed together by Abe or myself for choir anthems or hymns for the online worship service. Our anthems presented in the service video frequently featured artwork by the choristers or other young people in the congregation.

Three new choristers joined the group in the Fall of 2021, as we continued online weekly rehearsals. The new members were delivered rhythm instruments, a borrowed copy of More Voices, and other resources to their homes, as the others had received the year before. We have enjoyed being able to see our church friends and socialize a bit as part of the get-together.

I am thankful for the dedicated young people that make up our choirs, those who provide financial donations and encouragement, and Abe's magical music mixing skills, making our combined voices sound heavenly!

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Berard

The BCUC Choir

We spent an entire year of not gathering as choir to prepare weekly music for worship services or concerts. When we did gather in mid- December wearing our 'singing masks' we had only one rehearsal before the Omicron virus shut down onsite services and any chance for us to sing for Christmas Eve.

Through the year Abe gathered a number of us safely distanced around the Sanctuary/Entryway/Narthex to record hymns for Lent and Easter. Other times he gathered small groups to record hymns which he uploaded to YouTube for sharing far and wide. What a resource he has created for use by others not so able to provide choral music in their worship sites.

Abe continued to enable bi-weekly Thursday evening choir Zooms to keep us connected over the year. Thanks to David Stafford for hosting the Zooms. But we do long to meet together and sing. May it be soon.

The year had its losses. In February we lost Vernon Sulway, such a stalwart part of the Tenor section. In October we lost Shirley Hughes, a beloved former music director and part of the choir over the years. And we all journeyed with Abe while he cared for his wife, Susan, as she dealt with cancer and died in September. Needless to say, Abe needed some time away and we were grateful to people like Angela Starchuk who presided over providing Sunday onsite services as well as musical support when needed. Thanks also to Erin Berard, a most talented choir member who offers musical support as required. Abe also enabled the 'Band' to provide music at times through the year.

Many thanks to our music director, Abe, who has made the best of a very difficult year both with pandemic restrictions and the loss of Susan. We are blessed to have his talents shared with us and for his enabling so much other musical talent to be drawn upon.

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 BCUC and the wider 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, Minutes for Action, the Bell Ringer, the SOSA noticeboard, on the TV at church and announcements of meetings in the Sunday bulletin.

SOSA provides support, financial and otherwise, to various outreach and service ministries including FAMSAC, Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC), Refuge NOW, Interfaith Bridge Building (IFBB), Mission and Service (M&S), Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI). Projects carrying over from 2020 include:

Family Services Association Bells Corners Food Bank (FAMSAC)

FAMSAC, in collaboration with Ottawa Food Bank network, supplies emergency food orders to residents in this neighbourhood.

FAMSAC has continued to adapt its operating procedures, due to the pandemic. Formerly, clients were able to enter the storefront and choose their food items; now, all food orders must be packed and ready for pickup at the door. However, thanks to the dedication of the volunteers, FAMSAC was again able to provide over 1,000 orders to needy families within our community.

FAMSAC remains at 2194 Robertson Road, Unit 21, but is scheduled to move in September 2022 to the new multi-purpose building next to the Anglican Church.

FAMSAC was not able to prepare food hampers again this year, so it was decided to provide the clients, close to 250 families, with gift cards for groceries.

Food drives, organized by many agencies, also contributed a tremendous amount of food supplies.

Despite a significant drop off in donations from last year's record high and a second year of large increases in expenses, FAMSAC still finished the year in a positive financial situation. Total income was approximately \$149,000, a drop of 43% from last year's \$213,000, but an overall increase of 39% as compared to 2019.

Total expenditures reached another record high at over \$139,300, an increase of 21% over last year's \$115,300 and 74% higher than the \$80,000 spent in 2019. The biggest cause of this large increase is the higher rent that we pay in our current location, with rent and utilities accounting for 33% of all expenses, up seven percentage points from last year and 12 points since 2019. Food purchases still represent the lion's share of expenses at 57%, down from 66% last year, though up slightly in absolute terms, from \$76,000 to just under \$80,000. Again this year, the cost of grocery store gift cards for the Christmas campaign was a significant portion of food expenditures.

FAMSAC still managed to conclude the year with a small surplus of about \$9,700. Our total assets at year-end totaled approximately \$288,000. Significant expenses are expected in the coming year in relation to the fit-up of the new space which will put a dent in our substantial reserve.

In spite of the pandemic, FAMSAC has been able to meet the needs of those who called. Many thanks to the thoughtful, kind and generous people in our community and to the volunteers who spend countless hours working behind the scenes that enable FAMSAC to continue to carry on this important local mission.

BCUC financial support to FAMSAC is through SOSA budget and private donations.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is John MacFarlane.

Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC)

This has been another challenging year for the Chaplaincy due to the pandemic. Steve Zink, the part time Chaplain has been unable to conduct the martial arts program for the youth and he could only offer the study/support group for adults on Zoom. However, he has continued to provide individual and pastoral counselling and visited people in hospital.

The highlight of the year was supposed to have been a weekend camping experience at Camp Otterdale in September when some pandemic restrictions were lifted. In view of this Rev. Lorrie Lowes was

employed by OWECC for a period of three months for nine hours per week to recruit campers, help plan the weekend away and offer pastoral counselling. Sadly, due to a family emergency the owner was unable to keep this commitment. Nevertheless, our chaplain with the help of Lorrie Lowes was able to find a camp on Silver Lake which could accommodate a bus load of people for the day. Those who attended enjoyed the beautiful setting. Some went swimming, some went boating while others just relaxed around the campfire. Verne Bruce, a longtime friend of the Chaplaincy ordered the food and cooked a great lunch for us.

Steve has been exploring the possibility of starting a study group at McEwan House at the request of some individuals who have recently moved there from Regina Towers.

The Board of OWECC would like to thank BCUC for their very generous support of the Chaplaincy in 2021.

BCUC financial support to OWECC is through SOSA budget.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Peggy Aitchison.

Nepean Ottawa West Refugee Committee (Refuge NOW)

This year has been complicated because of COVID, but, nevertheless, some refugee families have been helped.

Yemeni Family

This family consists of a couple and their daughter, who is in grade five at school. They have been sponsored by a family member in Canada, and St. Stephen's Anglican Church, with support from Refuge N.O.W. The family is currently living with their family sponsor but hope to find their own place in the spring. The husband has two jobs, which he enjoys. Their daughter went to summer camp and enjoyed it.

Eritrean Family

Mary has taken a medical administration course and is working very hard in retirement homes as a PSW. Her partner's long-awaited arrival happened in October, and he was met at the airport by a small group. A place was found for him to quarantine for 14 days, with daily reporting, and testing for COVID on day 8 and day 14, after which he was allowed to join Mary and her daughter. He now has SIN, OHIP, a bus pass and warm clothing. He knows very little English.

The news in January is that Mary has COVID, and the rest of the family are in quarantine.

Syrian Family

This is a co-sponsorship with family in Canada. It is a family of five, with husband, wife, and 3 young children. The sponsorship documents are at last finalized and their applications approved and forwarded to the visa office in Amman, Jordan.

Thanks to all at BCUC for your support.

BCUC Financial support to Refuge NOW is through SOSA budget and donations Bridget McNeill.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Bridget McNeill.

Interfaith Bridge Building with the Jami Omar Mosque (IFBB)

During 2021 the IFBB committee has met on several occasions via Zoom and have discussed various ideas for the present and future of the committee. Plans for a joint dinner and for educational programs are on hold due to the pandemic.

In January we were invited by Dr. Nigar Islam, to attend, via Zoom, an Interfaith Prayer for World-Wide relief from COVID. This was organized by the senior's group at Jami Omar. Rev. Lorrie Lowes represented BCUC, as well as another United Church minister and an Imam from the Kanata Muslim Association who offered prayers.

In February we decided on our first joint project to accept donations of snacks, scrubs hats and money for Tim Horton's gift cards for the Environmental Department of the Queensway Hospital as tokens of our appreciation for their work keeping the hospital clean and safe. These gifts were delivered to the hospital on June 24.

In March Rev. Lorrie Lowes wrote a letter to both faith communities re the role of faith to help relieve personal anxiety in relation to the pandemic. We also welcomed a guest from All Saints Anglican Church in Westboro, who was interested in the interfaith initiative at BCUC and Jami Omar.

In October we started our second joint project. Jami Omar and BCUC collected donations of mitts/gloves, scarves, hats and socks (317 items in total) which were picked up by the Mission and Shepherds of Good Hope on 21 December.

We are always open to having new members join us.

BCUC funding support to IFBB is through SOSA budget and private donations.

Respectfully:

Alison Bridgewater, Bridget McNeill, Rev. Lorrie Lowes, Fariha Shoaib, Farouq Ahmed, Anwar Ul Haq.

Mission and Service (M&S)

Bells Corners United Church (BCUC) has been a strong supporter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada (UCC), both from the general Operating Fund and through special fund-raising projects.

The 2021 Lenten Project was funding an OWECC weekend retreat at Camp Otterdale. There was no special Advent project for 2021 as support for the Chipembi project was encouraged.

During the year, various M&S projects have been highlighted on the M&S bulletin board and with the notices that donations can be made directly to M&S through the flow-through fund for M&S at BCUC.

The SOSA Resource/Contact is Ellie Topp.

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)

The mission of the Multifaith Housing Initiative is to provide and promote safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing in inclusive communities, and to mobilize resources for these purposes. Currently, MHI owns a total of 139 units, housing between 300 and 400 people at five different property sites: Blake House, the Haven, Kent House, Somerset Gardens, and Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building.

Due to the pandemic, all fundraising and other MHI events had to be held virtually this year.

Veterans' House

BCUC participated in the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region (EOOR), through the *United We Stand* campaign to raise funds for the completion of Veterans House. Kudos to our congregation as we raised \$22,200 towards this event. Veterans House is now completed, with residents having moved in during the year. A grand opening has had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Veterans House is currently owned by MHI, however ownership will be transferred to Veterans House Canada once charitable status is attained. Four more homes are planned across Canada.

MHI Annual Tulipathon

The MHI annual fundraising walk, usually held at Dow's Lake, took place with members creating their own walks due to the pandemic, and submitting photos to MHI. This year six members of BCUC supported the Tulipathon by walking the paths through Andrew Haydon Park to the lighthouse at the Nepean Sailing Club.

MHI AGM

Last year the AGM was held outdoors at Vincent Massey Park, however with virus numbers rising, the AGM was held online on April 18. As well as the business portion of the meeting, there were videos showing the evolving development of Veterans House.

National Housing Day

Usually held at City Hall in November, this year it was again held virtually through YouTube.

The Haven Christmas Party

In lieu of an indoor Christmas Party this year, each household at the Haven was given a bag of cookies. Thanks to members of BCUC, through SOSA, we provided nine dozen cookies and some Christmas gifts for the children.

BCUC Financial support to MHI is through SOSA budget and private donations.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Barbara Bole Stafford.

Zambia Chipembi Project

Do you remember when we sent two amazing young adults to a little village in Zambia that we knew nothing about and had trouble pronouncing its name? In 2016, Hazel and Doyle Smith came home with stories of Chipembi and the people they met. They told us of a warm welcome, and amazing hope and faith, in a place on the other side of the world, and they urged us to help. Two years later, they returned with me in tow – and I understood. What we saw was not just a remote village in need; we saw resilience, we saw hope, we saw joy – and we saw friends. We came home ready to share this experience with our family at BCUC, ready to not just help, but to build a relationship between our two worlds.

It takes time to build a relationship and, in this case, it took more than enthusiasm to jump through the administrative hoops. It took patience and perseverance but here we are now making our dream of making the folks of Chipembi part of our extended faith family come true – and we have made a new partnership with a church right here in Ottawa! Emmanuel United Church has been working with Chipembi as well. We were quick to realize that we can do so much more for our friends if we work together, so a three-way partnership agreement was born and formalized.

Just as the pandemic was rearing its head in 2020, Neil and I joined with a small group of folks from Emmanuel UC to travel to Zambia once again, this time to work out a formal partnership agreement amongst our three communities. This year that agreement was finalized – and we were more than ready

to move forward on the project that the community of Chipembi felt was the most important at this moment in time. We began our efforts to raise funds to build a Church Administration/Community Centre right next to the church. This building will house the office of the minister, a vestry, indoor washrooms and a hall for community meetings and events. This hall will be used to engage the youth and young adults with a place to gather for friendship and music. It will allow opportunities such as classes in literacy and skills such as sewing for all ages. The building project itself will offer employment opportunities for local people. It will serve, not just Chipembi, but the surrounding area as well.

The original budget for this build was about \$24,000 CDN – (split between the two churches in Ottawa), but with the state of the economy worldwide and the struggling Zambian kwacha, in October that amount grew to \$29,257 CDN.

It was a bit scary to start such a large fundraising project in a time when pandemic restrictions meant that we couldn't hold events or sales. However, with funds already raised in anticipation of being part of such a project and the generosity of people at BCUC, we were able to send \$8,300 in the summer. This, along with \$8,000 from Emmanuel UC, and money raised locally in Chipembi, allowed the building project to begin - and you have continued to support this dream. As of the end of December 2021, BCUC had raised \$12,591.66! We have surpassed our original goal and are well on the way to making up the shortfall caused by an unstable world economy. You are amazing! The excitement in Chipembi is palpable as the physical building begins to take shape. Rev. Lwao, who heads the committee of community leaders there, has expressed their gratitude and sends blessings from the people of that area.

With the work of BCUC, Emmanuel UC, and the Chipembi congregation, this dream is becoming a reality. Let's remember that this building is just one part of the relationship that we are creating amongst our three communities. Our hope is to continue to help fund Camp Chipembi – an annual summer day camp for more than 100 children in the area – and to take a look at some of the other priority projects that will improve the medical centre and the local schools. Most of all, we want to continue to share our gifts with our neighbours.

My dream is that, once this pandemic releases its hold, more people from BCUC will have the opportunity to travel to this small place and share in the warm hospitality of the people there. I hope we will be able to share in the work, the worship, the (amazing!) music, and get to know each other over shared hopes, shared tasks, and shared meals. Thank you for your love and generosity! This is the beginning of something wonderful!

Respectfully,
Rev. Lorrie

SOSA Social Action Ministry

The charity works supported by BCUC are remarkable and effective, but social action is also needed to achieve the political action necessary to remediate the high level of poverty that is prevalent in Canada. In 2020 SOSA embarked on social action with events and projects to promote a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income. In 2021 SOSA members Ellie and Clarke Topp volunteered to be the contacts for the UCC Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) network on behalf of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC). The national council encouraged the following actions in 2021:

- Cross country candle-light vigils for GLI taking place across the country. The local network had plans for a vigil on Parliament Hill which, with the onset of Covid, had to change to a Zoom facilitated video collage of local congregational videos. It is available at: <https://www.bcuc.org/news/2021/5/20/ucc-guaranteed-livable-income-video>.

- In an attempt to encourage the federal Liberal convention to debate the importance of basic income, congregants were invited to write letters to Liberal MPs to support adoption of basic income resolutions.
- When Bill C-273 (to provide an enabling framework for implementation pilots of basic income) passed Second Reading, congregants were encouraged to write their MP letters of appreciation.
- On October 21, 2021, in recognition of the International Day for Poverty Eradication, Ellie and Clarke organized a Zoom event where authors of 'The Case for Basic Income', Elaine Power and Jamie Swift, discussed their book with Joe Gunn on the gains to society resulting from basic income. A video of this event, 'The Case for Basic Income', is available at <https://www.bcuc.org/news/2021/10/25/the-case-for-basic-income>.
- In December, congregants sent letters to MPs imploring federal support for the PEI plan to implement a GLI.
- At the end of the year, MPs also received congregant's letters seeking their support to Bill C-223, 'The National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act'.

The SOSA Resource/Contacts are Ellie Topp and Clarke Topp

The VEG OUT Project

A new initiative was begun to encourage our members and the local community to grow their own vegetables and fruits. To this end, webinars were presented on building raised beds and hoop gardens, preparing the soil and planting. David Donaldson extended a kind invitation to his farm to see flowers and vegetables growing side by side. A Facebook group was also set up for sharing our gardening experiences.

Neil Lowes generously took the lead on a successful fundraising sale of rain barrels and composters to encourage environmentally friendly gardening.

The SOSA Resource/Contact is Karen Boivin.

SOSA 2021 Budget and Direct Donations

Item	Budget 2021	Flo-thru & Appeals
UCC M&S	\$39,800.00	\$3,850.00
FAMSAC	\$5,100.00	\$13,558.00
MHI	\$3,150.00	\$1,355.00
OWECC	\$8,700.00	\$3,595.00
REFUGE N.O.W.	\$5,200.00	\$4,600.00
SOC ACTION	\$ 400.00	
Totals	\$62,350.00	\$26,958.00

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 Rev. Lorrie Lowes. In 2021, the following members volunteered their time and talents to support Pastoral and Spiritual Care: Barbara Bole, Ronald Knox, Nancy Power-Fardy, Beth Sharp and Susan Young. We owe our gratitude to many informal volunteers, including members of the Men's Club and the UCW, who have generously assisted the Team and supported the congregation by staying in touch with friends and neighbours.

Visiting

Unfortunately, in-person visits have not been possible during the ongoing pandemic. Instead, we have been connecting with members and adherents through phone calls, emails, notes and cards.

Worship in Retirement Homes

This past year, mid-week worship services at retirement homes were suspended. Residents of Stillwater Creek, Bridlewood Trails, Harmer House and Lynwood Park Lodge have been encouraged to join the BCUC virtual worship service offered on YouTube. A written text of the Sunday service and announcements was emailed to the retirement homes each week.

Celebration of Life and Memorial Services

Celebration of life and memorial services were offered by the ministers in the church and at off-site locations, as well as through funeral homes. Rev. Kim Vidal led the annual joint memorial service at the Bells Corners Union Cemetery on September 19.

Prayers

As usual, prayers have been offered during Sunday worship services. At in-person services, congregants were invited to request prayers and pray together. During the week, office staff and ministers have received prayer requests by telephone and email. Every Wednesday evening, members of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team have offered prayers during an at-home prayer circle.

Cards

We are grateful for the efforts of Ronalie Abbey and Judy Mann who have sent out many cards this year to express empathetic thoughts, sympathies, well-wishes and congratulations on behalf of the congregation.

Blue Christmas Service

On Dec. 15, a Blue Christmas Service of Healing and Renewal was offered by Rev. Kim Vidal, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and music director, Abe TeGrotenhuis. The audio format was complemented by a written text posted on the BCUC website.

We are a Caring 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

Property Management Committee

With the continuation of the pandemic, it has been an unusual year for the Property Management Committee. Use of the facilities has been greatly reduced but the Bells Corners Co-operative Nursery School, our main renter, has continued to operate when allowed by the government regulations. Another significant renter, Winners [day camp] operated during the summer and Alcoholics Anonymous returned in the fall.

Prior to the emergence of the Omicron variant, renters [primarily music and exercise classes] and church groups were gradually returning but in December, the Board decided that we must severely restrict use of the facilities when the public health authorities reintroduced measures to restrict the transmission of Omicron.

With the reduced use of our facilities and the need for cleaning, the contract with Allen Maintenance was suspended to save money. The custodial services were done by volunteers and the nursery school staff who wanted to do their own cleaning/sanitizing to ensure it was done to their required standards. Several planned projects, such as the carpet in the Sanctuary, could not be completed because contractors were encountering staff shortages and interruptions to the supply chains. However, the following major projects were completed:

- the heat exchanger in the CE Wing furnace was replaced
- with the completion of the portico, Property Management undertook to replace the asphalt at the Main Entrance with interlocking bricks. The area in front of the Main Door was regraded and repaved at the same time.
- several of the worst pot holes in the parking lot were patched.
- the North Door steps were stabilized as gradual sinking was causing cracked concrete and railing issues
- the countertop in the ladies washroom was replaced, thanks to a generous donation from UCW
- the burned out lights in the Sanctuary were replaced using volunteer labour

Communications

The Communications Committee facilitates how BCUC makes its presence and programs known.

During this second pandemic year, the Weekly BCUC Happenings email messages, BCUC website, and FaceBook page have continued to be very important methods of communication both within our Church community and outside our church family. Staff have been diligent and competent in keeping everyone informed in these ways. Our thanks to Connie Davidson continue for her professional skills with the website, and Hazel Smith's great work with FaceBook. Communications Committee continues to cover the expense of office supplies for staff.

Worship Committee's expanding use of digital communication methods has been key to continuing to reach congregants and the broader community during these difficult times.

Men's Club

Purpose: 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. Activities usually consist of either morning coffee time, a dinner with a topical speaker, or a planned outing. The group is managed by an executive, which consists of David Stafford (President), Dale Jarvis (Past-President), Bob Boynton (Technology), Doug Jones (Treasurer), Norm Pound (Communications), Ian Howes (At Large), and Neil Lowes and Ross Mutton (Events). Positions for Program and Meal preparation are vacant with individuals helping on an ad-hoc basis. The group is self-sufficient with no financial encumbrance on BCUC.

Activities: During 2021, the Men's Club relied largely on Friday morning ZOOM meetings where a group of 10 -12 regulars gathered to check in and discuss any topic raised. Chief amongst these were Jim Maxwell describing the growth of a children's shelter in Eswatini run by his son/daughter in law with google map images supplied by David Stafford; discussions on Electronic Vehicles and COVID progress.

As COVID restrictions eased into the late summer and fall, the group began meeting at the church, observing the latest COVID regulations of masks, distancing, and sanitation. Double tables were set up to maintain distancing. An average of 15 to 20 people attended each Friday. Many thanks to Ian Howes who regularly started coffee & tea and set up, to Archie King who helped set up, and to John Ross and Ross Mutton, who regularly assisted with clean up and others who helped clean up and put down tables & chairs. Also, thanks to Ruth Howes and Barbara Bole who provided occasional cookies to enhance the regular Tim Bits!

As the year end approached, concerns were raised about the state of the Omicron virus and some club practices in regards distancing, etc. COVID restrictions were subsequently raised by the Province and the Club ceased face to face operations just in time for the Christmas break.

Finances: During 2021, the Club donated an additional \$200 in support of the BCUC general fund. During the coffee meetings, the regular \$1.00 donation towards coffee/Tim Bits was reinstated. At the end of December, the club held \$533.54 in the bank account, \$34.07 on the Tim's Card and another \$77.90 in cash for a total of \$645.51 in hand. Those contributing have been very generous and we thank you! Thankfully, I can say that I am not aware of anyone who has contracted COVID-19 or any variants through the activities of the BCUC Men's Club!

Respectfully submitted,
David Stafford, President
davidstafford@sympatico.ca
613-592-0296

Membership

2021 Statistics	Marriages
Baptisms – 3 Marriages – 3 Funerals/Memorial Services – 8 Membership Transfers In – 4 Membership Transfers Out – 0 Adult Confirmation -1	Renza Pino & Alisha Lagasi – May 2021 Derek Falls & Mandy Spear – September 2021 Tim McMillan & Monique Bellefeuille – November 2021

Funerals/Memorial Services in 2021 BCUC Members	Deaths of BCUC Congregants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doreen Pope • Sophie Manuel • Vernon Sulway • Shirley Hughes • Susan TeGrotenhuis • Gerald Cann • Jack Calderwood 	Dorothy Donaldson Alan Webster Gord Ritcey Lois Donaldson Hazel Williams Eula Smith Dawn Ross		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> Donna Getz (June 25, 2021) Audrey Anderson (February 2, 2021) </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)	Donna Getz (June 25, 2021) Audrey Anderson (February 2, 2021)
BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)			
Donna Getz (June 25, 2021) Audrey Anderson (February 2, 2021)			

Memorial Gift Donations

Dorothy Donaldson Doreen Pope Laurie MacKechnie Alan Webster Gord Ritcey Vernon Sulway Sue Taylor Sophie Manuel Ken Watson Bill McDonald Bruce Lodge Lois Donaldson Patricia Godkin	Eulah Shier Iris Polton Leo Cooney Eula Smith Sharon Tonkin Bill Donaldson Hazel Williams Susan TeGrotenhuis Shirley Hughes Joyce & Gordon Scott Jack Calderwood Curtis TeGrotenhuis Nora Williams
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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*

Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES: Jan Pound, Denis Watson, Ross Mutton, Ruth Howes, Keith Bailey

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

During 2021 the Trustees:

- (a) Provided oversight to the Memorial Endowment Fund,
- (b) Monitored investment performance of the Fiera Capital Funds we hold,
- (c) Consulted with our insurance broker, as required, and reviewed the various provisions of our insurance coverage,
- (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,
- (i) **Lost a member of the Board to death, Vernon Sulway**

Resources needed in 2022:

Liability and Abuse Insurance for renewal of Policy November 29, 2022 of approximately \$ 16,000 + Ontario Sales Tax

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Purpose: The Ministry and Personnel Committee functions around three roles, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationship's role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the congregation with respect to any issue affecting staff of Bells Corners United Church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between the staff and the members and adherents of the congregation. The Committee met both *virtually* and *in person*, including the *Staff Christmas gathering on December 6, 2021*.

The following is a summary of the activities of the Committee for the year in chronological order.

1. **M & P Seminar:** Members of the Committee during 2021 were David Stafford (Chair, having been Acting Chair until April), Rick Morrison and new members Johanna Burrows, Daniel Lanoue and Mary Schmieder, who joined in February. On March 17th, 2021, all members of the Committee attended an on-line workshop delivered by Rev. Whit Strong, the EOR Personnel Minister.
2. **Staff Salary Issues:** In March, the Committee recommended to the Board that Rev. Lorrie's salary be enhanced by 20 percent over scale, in line with precedent of the past twenty years and reflecting her status as a Commissioned Diaconal Minister. This change was agreed upon at the annual meeting. Planning is underway for a *covenanting* service for Lorrie as restrictions are lifted and when the congregation fully returns to in person service.

3. Leave & vacation requests: Requests for study leave and vacation by Rev. Kim and Rev. Lorrie were considered and presented to the Board for approval.

4. Summer Student: The Committee applied and received a Summer Student Grant, interviewed three candidates, and hired Liam Eaton, who began work on June 22, ending on September 3. Liam was primarily responsible for developing programs and virtual events for the Sunday School and Youth of the church, covering the office phones when the office was vacant. A plaque of appreciation provided by the Federal government was presented to Liam on September 5th, 2021.

5. Annual Staff Interviews: In June the Committee begin the annual staff interviews. The feedback from our staff suggested that this was a positive experience for all involved in the process. All staff were asked a series of questions to determine any issues in work, cooperation, and execution of their day-to-day tasks; to discuss their plans or needs for training, and to generally have a discussion on how things are going, especially given that this was their second year of working with the stress of COVID issues and how they affected the BCUC family.

6. Support for our Music Director, Abe TeGrotenhuis & his family: At the end of August, the Committee was informed about Susan TeGrotenhuis declining health. We first turned our minds to how and in what way would we support Abe, Susan & their family. Then we tried to anticipate the impact this would have on Abe's ability to fully continue his duties as Minister of Music. The Committee, along with Worship/CE, put in place a service provision plan once he went on compassionate leave.

There was also discussion about how the Committee can provide ongoing support for the recorded version of Worship services and subsequently that led into further discussion about a *hybrid* model as the restrictions were lifted or changed and *in person* services resumed.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following people who, without hesitation, stepped up to the plate and through their outstanding contribution have ensured that our Worship services continued seamlessly, but not without considerable effort. They are;

- Angela Starchuk,
- Sue Morrison,
- Connie Davidson
- Ken Kim
- And of course, our Administrative team; Ellen Boynton & Ruth Timms

7. Preparing the 2022 BUDGET: The budget process began in the summer and continued into the fall and was presented to the Finance Committee in November. M&P drafted a budget for 2022 in the amount of \$287,195. The Finance Committee will provide a more detailed breakdown.

8. Staff appreciation: On December 7th, the Committee held a socially distanced Christmas luncheon that respected the restrictions in place at that time. It was held at Dan & Wendy's home in Belltown with Wendy taking charge of the meal logistics. The reviews seemed 'favourable' ...

This is the Annual M & P Report for 2021, approved by the M & P Committee on January 11th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

David Stafford,
Chair

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 most significant event this year was the retirement in October 2021 of Bill Johnson as Chairman and Treasurer. Bill's responsibilities as Chair have been assumed by Bill McGee, and the Treasurer role has been assumed by Ross Mutton. The functions of a Treasurer of a United Church are well-defined by the United Church, and Canada Revenue Agency has strict and sometimes complicated rules for a church to maintain its charitable status. The changeover involved several changes of signing authority for the various accounts that BCUC maintains. This includes four accounts with TD Bells Corners and a BMO Investorline Account for donations of securities.

Managing the ongoing financial responsibilities in 2021 included the following activities with the need to adapt to the changes required by the COVID 19 pandemic:

- managing the annual financial planning cycle by preparing an annual general budget including operating, directed and capital funds for approval by the Board and the Congregation;
- managing banking and bookkeeping services to meet church financial requirements including adding a new e-transfer service and use of Canada Helps as a way to donate to BCUC during the pandemic;
- tracking, recording and safeguarding the financial transactions (income and expenses) throughout the year for the operating, directed and capital funds;
- organizing and presenting regular reports to the Church Board;
- issuing tax receipts for eligible donations; initiating the annual financial audit by Frouin Group of Ottawa; preparing the annual C R A charity tax return, oversight of invested funds 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, and compliance with BCUC and United Church policies and regulations, and CRA requirements. The volunteers include the Sunday tellers (organized by office staff); the event treasurers (example Pierre Dugas), the Directed Fund Coordinator (Bob Boynton), the envelope secretary (Griz Morrison) who keeps track of all donations for tax receipt purposes using ChurchWatch, the PAR Coordinator (Ross Mutton), the Securities Coordinator (Brian Durno), the Gift Certificate Program Coordinators (office staff).

We thank the volunteer members of the FMC who contributed their time and effort to the committee in 2021, and the members of the Congregation for continuing their strong financial support of BCUC. We salute the many years of service of Bill Johnson in running the financial matters of Bells Corners United Church in an exemplary manner which will be hard to emulate.

Bill McGee, Chair Financial Management

Ross Mutton, Treasurer

Fundraising in 2021

Nearly all of the Church fun and fundraising events that happen in a normal year still could not take place in 2021, so here is a resume of those things which could be done safely.

Early in the year the Celebration Hymn Sing was included with requests as part of Sunday services over several weeks. Donations were used to enhance online worship service preparation.

The Gift Card Program continued to be supported with ingenious ways found to deliver cards and receive payment. Cards for Sobeys, Metro and Loblaw are sold through the office with % rebate ranging from 3 to 5%. Thanks to all who continue to purchase these cards for groceries and gifts. New customers are always welcome!

Thanks to Ross Mutton for help with Easter and Christmas Memorial Flower programs so that beautiful plants could be placed in the Sanctuary when onsite services were able to be offered.

In mid-October the Boyntons organized the second Outdoor Market with a variety of sales areas including Deli, Baking, Books & Puzzles, Crafts, Gifts and also a location for the Scouts. Rain persisted but canopies, the new portico and the generous overhang along the Sanctuary roof provided protection and thanks to both hardy workers and shoppers a profit of \$7,000 was raised to help with the Operating Fund. UCW, including Ruth Howes and her turkey pies, provided most of the Deli items. The chance to meet and mingle was priceless!

UCW (United Church Women)

The UCW calendar was challenging this past year. The COVID virus meant we have had no potluck dinners, no funeral receptions for members, no kitchen duty. We managed to keep in touch by email or phone. As restrictions eased in the summer/fall units met, carefully, but joyfully.

In January 2021, Ruth Howes made 604 turkey pies honouring Cathy, Doris and Bev. Nancy Wiles assisted with cutting vegetables. The office handled the orders. The money went to the operating fund.

January/February is usually kitchen clean-up, but with no usage this was not necessary.

In October, restrictions eased with limited contact, and we were able to contribute to the Outdoor Market. Jams jellies, pies and 400 turkey pies were made for the Deli Stall, mainly by Unit 2.

For now, our executive meetings are via email as required. UCW can provide substantial funds for church 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.

Unit 1 has disbanded with the ladies going to the unit of their choice. Each of the three units has their own activity to raise money at Christmas time and the recipient of these monies is a unit decision which has nothing to do with UCW as a whole or BCUC. Their donation decision was made via email or phone.

In normal times there are two units which meet in the daytime and one unit meets in the evening, so our availability suits almost all women in the congregation. Please remember that all women in the United Church are technically members of the UCW and are welcome. We're hoping we can resume some of our activities soon.

Marion Dugas
UCW President

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 Keith Bailey (Co-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. Sadly, early this year, our beloved Chair, Vernon Sulway passed away after a short illness. The Board welcomes a new Co-Chair, Keith Bailey. The board met twice in 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, both meetings were held using Zoom. All other business was conducted by e-mail and phone.

Revenue in 2021 (compared to 2020) was \$7,355 (\$5,602) with expenses of \$4,568 (\$9,943). There was one full burial and three interments of cremated remains.

<u>Revenue</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Donations	\$3,130	Grounds	\$2,900
Interment Fees	1,650	Hedge trim	1,100
Investments	<u>2,575</u>	Administration	<u>568</u>
	<u>\$7,355</u>		<u>\$4,568</u>

The Memorial Service was held on September 19 in the Chapel at Christ Church Bells Corners with standard COVID 19 protocols. The Reverend Kim Vidal performed the service with about 30 people attending.

One of our main activities this year has been planning to build one or more Columbaria to hold cremated remains. We are hoping to have these installed in 2022. We are also well underway to updating our cemetery map to replace the one in the Kiosk. The new map will be placed in the Kiosk in the spring.

The grounds were well kept by Glen Soubliere, sub-contractor for Kare-Mor Ent. Co. Ltd. Richard Eade’s and Robert Boynton’s help with the burials was much appreciated. Thanks to our Treasurer Bill Irwin who prepares our Annual Financial Report and reports to Revenue Canada and the Registrar of Cemeteries in Ontario.

Keith Bailey,

January 2022

Catherine Ginn

Email: 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. Since this was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our approach required changes. In early December, the printed material for the campaign is reviewed for changes. This year we had few changes in the Time and Talent listing, except Abe hopes to recruit volunteers in the preparation of on-line church services. The coloured brochure also needed 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.

This year we had a two-pronged approach to distribution. The majority of the material was delivered electronically, and we had 63 mail-out envelopes much the same as last year. In addition, Clarke Topp prepared a brochure of the activity of the SOSA group, and we added a few pages on the work of some other groups. This was delivered electronically. This material replaced the Committee Fair. 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. This year we had to forgo the popular Soup and Sandwiches event.

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.

In 2021 we hope to continue to send a large fraction of our material electronically. This will include all the material except a return envelope. But we will investigate electronic means of response to the Church rather than relying on mailing of replies.

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

Bill McGee