

**United Church of Canada
Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge**

2016 Annual Report

March 5, 2017



Orchard Valley United Church

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Table of Contents

1.	Our Mission and Vision Statements	1
1.1	Mission Statement	1
1.2	Vision Statement.....	1
2.	In Memoriam	1
3.	Notes from Council, Ministry, and Staff.....	2
3.1	Jane McDonald, Chair, OVUC Church Council	2
3.2	Rev. Ivan and Judith Norton, Ministers.....	3
3.3	Rev. Bill MacLeod, Intentional Interim Minister.....	4
3.4	Ken Hassell, Music Director.....	5
4.	Committee Reports	6
4.1	Christian Development Committee (formerly Faith Formation)	6
4.2	Communications Committee.....	7
4.3	Congregational Life Committee	8
4.4	Covenanter Church Committee	9
4.5	Finance Committee.....	11
4.6	Ministry and Personnel Committee	11
4.7	Outreach Committee.....	12
4.7.1	Canucopia Food Drives	12
4.7.2	Benevolent Fund Requests	13
4.7.3	Glooscap Elementary Breakfast Program.....	13
4.7.4	Christmas Hampers Program	13
4.7.5	Meet Your Feet Foot Care Clinic	14
4.8	Pastoral Care Committee.....	16
4.9	Property Committee	17
4.10	Stewardship Committee.....	19
4.11	Worship Committee	20
5.	Other Groups.....	21
5.1	Orchard Valley Men’s Group.....	21
5.2	Orchard Valley UCW (OV-UCW)	21
5.3	Wolfville UCW (UCW-W)	26
5.4	Friday Women’s Breakfast Group.....	28
5.5	Prayer Shawl Ministry	30
5.6	Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC)	30
5.7	Kentville, New Minas and Area Council of Churches (KNMACC)	30
5.8	Valley Foodgrains Bank Project.....	32
5.9	Valley Presbytery Report	33
6.	Board of Trustees.....	34

Appendices:

2016 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Nominating Committee Report
Budgets and Financial Reports

1. OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

1.1 Mission Statement

Inspired by the grace of God, we are a welcoming faith family called to love ourselves, others and the world. We seek to deepen our spiritual understanding and reach out to others through worship and socially just action.

1.2 Vision Statement

Living and Acting through Faith (LAF)

2. IN MEMORIAM

A total of 19 funeral/memorial services were held by OVUC in 2016:

- Joseph Henry Alward
- Stewart Roy Brown
- Garth Lee Bustin
- David Woofrey Carnell
- George Frederick Forsyth
- Gerald Ingram Harris
- Doreen Lorraine Kelly
- Joyce Katherine Lyon
- Margaret (“Peggy”) Duncan Manuel
- Sarah (“Sally”) McIntyre
- Elizabeth MacLean Murdoch
- Jean Albina Palmeter
- Steven Paul Patterson
- William (“Bill”) Clyde Rooney
- Joanne Elizabeth Simpson
- Verna Isabella (Brown) Simpson
- MaryLou Walker
- Helen Norine Watson
- Pauline Violet Worthylake

3. NOTES FROM COUNCIL, MINISTRY, AND STAFF

3.1 Jane McDonald, Chair, OVUC Church Council

Well another year has passed in the rather short life of Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge. It has been a year of much growth and maturity for our congregation. We are but a young family learning to live with each other and to discover our idiosyncrasies and ways that we can live together. Through the help of Judy and Ivan Norton as well as the guidance of Bill MacLeod we are taking those baby steps that are needed to become independent. I am proud of the progress we have made and we are on the right path to fulfilling our true potential.

We continue to work together to meet the needs of our congregation as well as to reach out into our communities and offer support either to individuals through our Meet Your Feet program, the support we offer to the Glooscap Elementary School breakfast program, our Canucopia Drives for the food banks, our benevolent fund distribution to help individuals in crisis, our Thursday afternoon games time, our families on the run meals, our soup luncheons, our Bible studies, and our prayer shawl ministry, just to name a few. Thank you to everyone in our congregation who helps in any way to allow us to carry out these activities and support our communities. We could not accomplish all that we do without each and every one of you.

I hope that I have been able to contribute in my own ways to the community that we have become. As Chair, you take on responsibilities to help guide the Council, and subsequently the congregation, to make sound decisions in the paths that we follow. I hope I have been able to help this congregation on their path to independence. It has been my privilege to support you in whatever ways I could. Thank you for your patience and support throughout the last two years. I have truly enjoyed my time as your Chair.

There is still work to be done. We have accomplished much in helping to identify who we are and how we wish to live our life as a faith community. We have developed our identity, approved a Mission and Vision statement and have appointed members to a Joint Needs Assessment Committee, who will begin their work very soon. We are in the process of seeking members of our congregation to review the physical needs of our congregation and how we move forward with that work. We will need to search for the right balance of ministerial leadership as we move forward as an independent congregation. What that will look like only time will tell.

We need to keep in mind our fiscal responsibilities as we make decisions that will not only affect our immediate congregation but also our future congregation as time progresses. I have tremendous faith that we are building a strong foundation for this congregation to find its place in our surrounding communities so we can carry out our mission and support those in need, whether they be on our immediate doorstep or in far reaching countries that need our support as well. We rise up and support those who are suffering from the effects of natural disasters but we also look after those in our faith community who are struggling with illness or loss. We offer the comforting hand or shoulder to cry on. We are there for those in need. I cannot be more proud of the work we do. My heart bursts with the level of caring we have in our community and each of us should be proud of who we are as a family and what we have become. We have

grown a lot in the last couple of years. We have matured and we are working at letting go of the past in order to look outside of ourselves to support our broader community into the future.

Thank you once again for your continued support of Orchard Valley. Let the future unfold.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane McDonald, Chair
OVUC Council
Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge

3.2 Rev. Ivan and Judith Norton, Ministers

“Our hope in the days ahead is that we’ll worship and have fun together; that we’ll continue to see Orchard Valley take its place along with other area churches; that we will distinguish ourselves as a friendly, welcoming congregation; and that we’ll plan for the future, but enjoy the moment.” Those are words from our last year’s annual report. We’ve done all of that, in some measure, and can see the progress all around us. We’ve seen attendance stabilize, welcomed new people and welcomed people back. We see evidence of fellowship at coffee time, prior to the 9:00 am service and following the 11:00 am service. We have noted that Orchard Valley folk are happy when they come into church, they’re happy during church, and they’re happy on their way out.

It was while driving to the church one day in late January, that we remarked that Orchard Valley is a pretty good place. One of us lamented that if only we were 20 years younger, we wouldn’t be looking for a call. We would just settle in and stay. That’s not going to happen. Nor should it. We Nortons are here “in the interim”. Our assignment is to provide day-to-day leadership and pastoral care.

What we have found in the months we have been with you is that this is a congregation made up of good people. There’s all kinds of energy here. We do so much that makes a difference in people’s lives – in this congregation, in our community, and beyond.

One of the signs of a church that takes its mission seriously, is that it will make a difference. That’s a good concept. It reminds us of the hymn that we often use at the end of the Sunday service:

*Go make a difference, we can make a difference, Go make a difference in the world.
And the Spirit of Christ will be with us as we go, Go make a difference in the world.*

If we take seriously Jesus’ commands that we love one another, feed the hungry, seek the lost, visit the sick, etc., our lives and the life of our church will be marked with generosity, with caring, with a commitment to make this world a better place for our having lived in it. That’s the Kingdom of God.

As you read the reports in this booklet you will hear stories of this congregation over the past year. They are good stories: stories of food and funding and many volunteer hours for three local Foodbanks; stories of Christmas for 35 families in this area; stories of taking services at five local seniors’ residences every month, stories of loyal support for the Mission and Service

Fund, Saturday night suppers at Open Arms, sending families to camp and providing footcare at three locations. These are places where a measurable difference was made. In the workshop that was held to put together material for a mission statement, “feeding the hungry” was identified as a priority by every group. This is a congregation that has a significant commitment to mission.

I like to think that our worship services, both regular and special occasion, make a difference by offering renewal and direction for our lives. Orchard Valley has two (different) worship services each week. The 9:00 am service is a little less formal and a little more contemporary. The 11:00 am service has more structure and is blessed by the Choir’s presence. At both services, we gather as God’s people, we hear God’s word and we’re sent out to do something about it. The music program here is exceptional. And we should remember the rites of passage – baptisms, weddings, and memorial services – when individuals and families turn to the church to mark important transitions in their lives. In 2016, we officiated at three baptisms, six weddings and 19 memorial services. (The baptism count for 2017 stands at five for the month of January.)

That’s all wonderful, but there’s a problem. 2016 is gone. It’s 2017 and we can’t rest on our laurels, pat ourselves on the back and say, “Job well done.” Hopefully we’ll hear that when we meet Jesus, but in the meantime, there are needs to be met. Each of last year’s projects will need to be acted on once again, and there will be new needs. The Transition Team is winding up its business. The Joint Needs Assessment Committee has commenced its work. By this time next year, hopefully someone else will be writing the ministers’ report – someone who will come in and share the vision and embrace the journey with enthusiasm and grace.

Let me finish with that hymn chorus again:

*Go make a difference, we can make a difference, Go make a difference in the world.
And the Spirit of Christ will be with us as we go, Go make a difference in the world.*

As individuals and as a congregation we have been given the power and the responsibility to make a difference, to make this world a better place in 2017. It’s a joy to do God’s work in our world. It’s a special blessing when we do it together.

Allow us to thank everyone for your generosity and commitment, including officers and committee members, as well as the church staff, Ken, Dale, Theresa and Louis. Our prayer is always that we will be blessed by a gracious spirit of concord and unity as we move forward.

Yours in Christ’s Service,

Ivan & Judy
OVUC Ministers

3.3 Rev. Bill MacLeod, Intentional Interim Minister

Orchard Valley United Church and Valley Presbytery established a period of Interim Ministry following the congregational review of 2015. Rev. Bill MacLeod has been covenanted as Interim Minister and has been working closely with Rev. Ivan and Mrs. Judy Norton, who are providing ongoing pastoral leadership.

In the fall of 2015, a Transition Team was established to set goals and guide the work of the Interim Minister over the coming months. The committee members are as follows:

- Janet Anderson and Rev. Karen Lynch, Presbytery appointees;
- Peter Oleskevich, Chair, and Thea Burton, Secretary; and
- Joanne Olive, Shelley Moore-Dunfield, Linda Draper, Betty Jean Curry, Cynthia Bruce, and Rebecca Whiting, team members.

The Team continues to work closely with Ivan and Judy Norton to coordinate the work of the congregation. Presently, the Team is working with the information gathered at the congregational workshop which addressed the mission of the congregation.

In addition, the Team will be working to attain goals for this time. Goals include:

- A report for Valley Presbytery;
- Establishment of a Joint Needs Assessment Committee to make recommendations to the congregation regarding ministry needs for the future; and
- Establishing a working group to make recommendations regarding the future needs to house the congregation.

As Interim Minister, I wish to express gratitude to the Transition Team for commitment to the work we have undertaken. In the days to come, we will continue to work on your behalf and to keep you updated as to our progress.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bill MacLeod

3.4 Ken Hassell, Music Director

Our choir continues to be one of the best places to be in the Orchard! Thank you all for your support of our fantastically faithful fold.

At Easter, our numbers swelled with the addition of instrumentalists to accompany our anthems.

In November, we participated in the annual Ecumenical Advent Service planned and hosted by Devin Johnstone and the Kentville United Baptist Church.

During October, November, and the Advent season, we rehearsed and, on the Sunday before Christmas, presented our cantata, "A Journey of Promises". This service also featured readings by Debbie Mailman and Peter Oleskevich.

Throughout the year, we have been blessed by the talents of various vocal groups, soloists, and instrumentalists.

Thank you to Nancy Handrigan, Debbie Mailman, and Marilyn Whiteway for your gifts as substitute music leaders through the year. A thank you also goes to Wayne MacDonald who gave of himself and his musical talents on different occasions this year.

Congratulations and thank you to Dale Griffiths who continues to provide most capable music leadership for the 9:00 am service. Also, thank you Gary Dunfield for your musical gifts.

It has been a very fulfilling year. We all truly appreciate the continued and heartfelt support of our Orchard Valley Church Family and are looking forward to new musical challenges and experiences yet to come!

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Hassell
Music Director

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Christian Development Committee (formerly Faith Formation)

2016 Members: Meg Townsend (Chair, Sep-Dec)
Kathy Schofield (Council rep, Jan-Jun)
Andy Pitter (Secretary)
Heather Bishop
Amanda Dominey
Linda Draper
Margaret Hayes (Jan-Feb 2016)
Heather Hennigar
Cheryl Hill
Lorna MacNeil (Sunday School Leader, Sep-Dec)

2016 Youth Leaders: Susan Cater
Cheryl Hill

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton

Thank you again to the 2015 Nominating Committee for all the new members.

In 2016, Orchard Valley's Faith Formation/Christian Development Committee supported or facilitated participation in the following programs:

- Nursery/Sunday School during the 11:00 am worship and children's activities during the 9:00 am worship;
- Seekers' activities;
- Families on the Run;
- Lectionary (Bible Study) Group;
- Drumming program for children;

- Intermediates at Conference (Ella Anderson) and Youth Forum (Brandan Davison);
- Spirituality in the Secular World discussion;
- Berwick Camp (sponsored two families); and
- Orchard Valley Family Camp.

In April, two of our Sunday School children, Grace Oleskevich and Myah Hawley, shared the Easter pageant with seniors at Kings Riverside Court.

Also in the spring, we had several work parties to organize the supplies we have in the upstairs rooms.

As requested by Council and the Transition Team, we reviewed our mandate and in doing so decided to change the name of the committee to "Christian Development" to narrow our area of responsibilities. Our new mandate is:

To provide stewardship of the Christian development programs of the Congregation and to determine the educational and developmental needs of the Congregation and initiate programs to meet these needs for all persons, at each stage of their lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Andriel Pitter, Secretary
Christian Development Committee

4.2 Communications Committee

2016 Members: Sylvia Jacquard (Chair)
 Carol Dewar (Secretary)

Ex-Officio: Theresa Perrin

The committee met monthly to deal with the items related to our mandate which is to let the congregation and the public know what is happening at Orchard Valley. This we do in a variety of ways.

Our twice-yearly newsletters (at Advent and Easter) are well received. They are available in regular and large print versions which are: emailed; posted on the website; and available in paper-copy in the church.

We publicize the monthly Soup and Dessert Luncheons and any other events as requested including the Canucopia Food Drives, and the Congregational Breakfast and Entertainment.

It is an ongoing task to keep the website up-to-date. A new page on the website has been created called "Orchard Valley in the News", where links to articles in the local newspapers about our congregation and its members are posted. We are currently working on filling in the empty spots and adding a history of the amalgamated congregations.

This year's *Stories From the Orchard* (pre-service slideshows which play for two consecutive Sundays) featured Canucopia, Apple Blossom Festival, Families on the Run, Sunday School

Christmas and Easter Programs and Picnic, “Christmas With A Twist”, Heartprints, Anniversary Service, Birthdays, Coldest Night of the Year, Prayer Shawl Group, Berwick Church Camp, School for Fun, Sherbrooke Lake Camp, Tymchuk Pig Roast, Syrian Refugee Family – The Tahinas, and the Stewardship Committee’s Soup and Dessert Luncheons.

The OVUC photo and contact directory was our major project for the year. It consists of 28 pages and includes a photo section with 115 photos of singles, couples and families and a contact information section that includes 187 households. Four groups submitted photos and there were 14 candid shots from activities that occurred during the year.

We took a turn at providing a seniors’ worship service at Kings Riverside Court in Kentville. On June 12, Sylvia, Carol and Theresa, with the assistance of Andy Pitter, Mary Larkin and Vangé Leslie, presented a service on the theme of the beauty of nature with Theresa giving a reflection on God’s Creation. Afterwards there were refreshments and a time of fellowship. We also created a worship service template with resources to make the process easier for other committees who volunteer to do services.

We switched to new church management software in 2016 – Power Church Online – because the company that owned Church Helpmate Online (the church management software we had been using for about a year) was merging with another company and support for CHO was being phased out.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Jacquard, Chair
Communications Committee

4.3 Congregational Life Committee

2016 Members: Rebecca Godfrey (co-Chair)
 Gail Gordon (co-Chair)
 Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie
 Cheryl Manzer
 Pam Petrie
 Vicki-Lynn Rodenhiser
 Joan Simpson
 Ruth-Anne Stirling

It has been a good year with the Congregational Life Committee. We have been involved in activities that promote a social atmosphere in our church. There have been a few changes in 2016; a new member, Pam Petrie, has decided to join us. It is always nice to have someone new on our committee.

Y’All Come to Supper (formerly known as Families on the Run) has been very successful this year. We serve between 30 and 50 people each month. The costs are covered through our free-will offering. We have decided to change the name to Y’All Come to Supper, as we thought this would be more inclusive. We enjoy having members of all ages of the congregation come to participate in this special event.

The Car Rally scheduled for this fall was cancelled due to bad weather. There will be one again in the spring with a potluck to follow.

It was an excellent weekend with regards to Sherbrooke Lake Camp. There was a good attendance there, with special guests from Syria. The children loved the camp, asking when the next one would be held. A big thank-you to all the volunteers who worked there. Your help was very much appreciated.

A new event this year was called Beat the February Doldrums. It was held once a week, when the congregation would come during the evening, and we would have events. For example, we held cooking classes, genealogy sessions, guitar lessons, and a church member showing slides of a trip they had taken. It was a successful event, with genealogy being a big hit, as well as some interesting cooking classes. We are going to have it this again in 2017, hopefully with some more events, and we are going to hold the cooking classes earlier in the evening.

We also took a bus trip to Windsor and Annapolis Royal. There was a small attendance but was thoroughly enjoyed. The bus trips will continue in 2017.

A huge thank-you to all members of Congregational Life for their hard work.

Respectively submitted,

Rebecca Godfrey, Co-Chair
Congregational Life Committee

4.4 Covenanter Church Committee

2016 Members: Ernie Draper (Acting Chair)
 Betty Curry (Treasurer)
 Jim Keech (Building Coordinator)
 John Cochrane (Board of Trustees Rep)
 Beth Crosby
 Maggie Keppie
 Lynn McLelland
 Dorothy Robbins
 Jean Palmeter (Honorary Member)

Ex-officio: Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton

The Covenanter is the oldest existing Presbyterian Church building in Canada and is an object of great pride to the local community. It is a registered Provincial Heritage Building and a National Historic Site and, as such, is an active tourist destination for local and international travelers. Because of its historical importance, the Committee would like the Covenanter to remain a living church by maintaining ties with the United Church of Canada. Currently the responsibility of the Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge, the Covenanter has unique sources of funding and management. The Covenanter Church is a trust of Orchard Valley United Church Trustees and is managed by the Covenanter Committee. The Committee has representation from OVUC Trustees as well as the Worship Committee. The Covenanter has been financially self-sufficient through the Heritage Fund set up to receive and disperse monies for repairs and

maintenance. Funding is from a variety of sources including offerings, donations, special services, weddings, fundraising, bequests, memorials and government grants.

The proper care and maintenance of the Covenanter is always a priority of the Committee and OVUC Trustees. In 2016, we had 10 meetings. Meetings were typically held at 10:00 am, the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between OVUC and Lower Horton Hall.

Maintenance and repairs included an engineer's structural assessment along with recommendations, plans for installation of a new French drain to eliminate water accumulation, and other miscellaneous repairs and painting. Lawn care was provided by Louis Lightfoot for part of the year and subsequently taken over by Greg Allen. Louis's absence has been noted as he did much more than just mowing. The church organ was completely overhauled.

In addition to the regular Summer Series Services, the Service of Hope and Healing was held on July 28 at 17:55 hours (17:55 pm, representing the year of Deportation of the Acadians) which brought together the community and others. This year the reconciliation service focused on First Nations culture. Educator and Mi'kmaq elder, Lorraine Whitman, conducted the service and spoke on the Mi'kmaq seven truths. The Kirkin' O Tartan is a special service that has special meaning to the Scottish and Irish settlers of the past and present and is hosted by Clan MacDonald in June.

There were 621 signatures in the Covenanter Guest Book in 2016 although this is not an accurate reflection of the number of persons who visit the church. Our own Summer Series brought a cornucopia of pulpit supply who were very well received by the congregations present, as well as the Christmas Eve Service that was conducted by Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton. The sub-committee that worked with Rev. Ivan, Judy and Ken Hassell presented a solemn and meaningful service along with the many families who contributed to the readings and candle lighting; the traditional singing of "O Holy Night" by soloist Stephen McClare left the congregation with a true sense of the Christmas season.

With an approved budget, the Covenanter Committee is looking to undertake capital projects that include anode replacement on the church roof, structural refurbishing of foundation timbers and a new French drain.

There are several weddings booked for the summer of 2017 at the Covenanter. A new Covenanter's Wedding Policy was approved by the Church Council so couples will now have a policy and fee structure to go by. A Wolfville High School reunion worship service is scheduled for September.

The purchase of the cemetery adjacent to the Covenanter has finally been achieved, with the new owners being Orchard Valley United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Draper, Acting Chair
Covenanter Church Committee

4.5 Finance Committee

2016 Members: Bruce Smith (Chair)
 Pat Foote (Secretary)
 Bill Simpson (Treasurer)
 Betty Curry
 Helen Hansford
 Joan White

Ex-officio: Rev. Ivan Norton

Our committee and our congregation were very fortunate again this year to have Bill Simpson as our treasurer. His experience is certainly an asset and he spends a great deal of his time working on behalf of the church.

In 2016, with all the church properties sold, we as a committee could concentrate on putting our church in a better financial position.

Givings were up this year and with a smaller financial expenditure for our ministerial team we were able to approach the goal our committee had of balancing our budget.

Our 2017 budget again is close to a balanced one as the committees of the church, although continuing to service the needs of the church and community, are cognizant of our financial goals.

In 2017 as we continue our transition, we as a committee will have to keep in mind the financial implications of this process in our decision-making.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Smith, Chair
Finance Committee

4.6 Ministry and Personnel Committee

2016 Members: Susanne Sweatman (Chair)
 Nancy Handrigan (Secretary)
 Ian Godfrey
 Carol Wooster

Orchard Valley United Church is privileged as a congregation to have wonderful staff. The dedication and expertise they bring to their roles is so appreciated. They are as follows:

- Ivan and Judy Norton, sharing a full-time position of Interim Ministry;
- Bill McLeod, Intentional Interim Minister, working with the Transition Team;
- Ken Hassell, Organist/Music Director;
- Dale Griffiths, Early Sunday Service Pianist;
- Cheryl Manzer, Meet Your Feet Footcare Nurse;

- Theresa Perrin, Office Administrator; and
- Louis Lightfoot, Custodian.

On behalf of the congregation I say ‘thank you’ to each staff member for their particular roles in the ministry of Orchard Valley United Church.

As the Ministry and Personnel Committee, it has been our responsibility, and our pleasure, to be available for consultation and support in matters involving the staff, overseeing the coordination of the staff with each other and with the congregation.

We regularly check in, informally and on request, with each staff person to support their efforts to meet their job expectations and to ensure that we, as a congregation, are providing the support and coordination each staff member requires to carry out their responsibilities.

I would like to thank the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for their time, expertise and commitment – Nancy Handrigan, Carol Wooster and Ian Godfrey.

Also, thank you to the congregation for your trust in the confidential work we do to nurture and support the ministry of Orchard Valley United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Sweatman, Chair
Ministry & Personnel Committee

4.7 Outreach Committee

2016 Members: Susan Cater (Acting Chair)
Sylvia Jacquard (Secretary, Oct-Dec)
Peter Dekker
Jane Fuller (absent due to illness)
Cheryl Manzer
Kelly Ross (absent due to work schedule)
Sue Smith

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton

The Outreach Committee undertakes a number of initiatives each year:

- Canucopia Food Drives;
- Benevolent Fund Requests;
- Glooscap Elementary Breakfast Program;
- Christmas Hamper Program; and
- Meet Your Feet Foot Care Clinic.

4.7.1 Canucopia Food Drives

The Outreach Committee organizes two food drives per year – one in the spring and one in the fall. All donations are divided between the three local food banks – Canning, Wolfville and

Fundy (serving Kentville, New Minas and area). Having between 35 and 40 OVU volunteers make this project a success:

- Spring Canucopia Food Drive (Sobeys) - 569 kgs of food and \$805.90 in cash; and
- Fall Canucopia Food Drive (Superstore) - 842 kgs of food and \$875 in cash.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith

4.7.2 Benevolent Fund Requests

We had 44 requests from January 1 to December 31, 2016. The breakdown of assistance given out is as follows:

Food	\$1,325.43
Housing Expenses (oil/power/rent)	950.00
Phone	672.49
Medical Expenses	214.02
Miscellaneous	<u>124.17</u>
	<u>\$3,286.11</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith

4.7.3 Glooscap Elementary Breakfast Program

Ten churches rotate and take four one-week turns during the school year. Our church provides two volunteers each morning during our assigned week. We are responsible for the toast assembly line starting at 7:15 am until 8:00 am. We have eight faithful volunteers whom we can depend upon for this project. This school year (2016-17) our dates were/are September 26–29, 2016; December 5–9; February 21–24, 2017 and May 8–12.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith

4.7.4 Christmas Hampers Program

Each year, the Outreach Committee participates in three Christmas hamper programs, covering the three local church council districts:

- Canning and area (through the Canning and Area Inter-Church Council);
- Wolfville and area (through the Wolfville and Area Food Bank); and
- Kentville, New Minas and Area (through the Salvation Army and KNMACC).

A total of \$3,960.00 in cash/gift cards for Christmas Hampers was donated by the OVUC congregation (as of December 17, 2016) and allocated as follows:

- **Canning and Area Inter-Church Council Hamper Program** – A \$500.00 cheque was sent to Canning (CAICC) for their Christmas hamper program.
- **Wolfville and Area Food Bank:** OVUC sent a \$500.00 cheque to the Wolfville and Area Food Bank for the purchase of pies; any amount left over was designated for the purchase of turkeys.
- **Salvation Army / KNMACC Hamper Program:** There were 486 applications for Christmas Hampers received by the Salvation Army. This translated to 986 individuals, of whom 581 were children. The Kentville, New Minas and Area Council of Churches (KNMACC) delivered 304 hampers, with the Salvation Army preparing the remaining 182. The remaining 14 were sponsored by individuals or other groups in the community. The Salvation Army prepared food hampers, each including a turkey or a ham, bread, juice and a large bag of fresh veggies (potatoes, carrots, parsnips, onions, turnip, squash, fresh cranberries) and a pie. The total cost per hamper was between \$57–\$60.

Orchard Valley also took part in the KNMACC distribution of Christmas Hampers (along with 11 other area churches). We:

- Provided two volunteers for registration at the Salvation Army for the Christmas Hampers;
- Provided four volunteers for the “Toy Store”;
- Distributed / arranged for pick-up of “gift card” hampers for 35 families in need. The delivery date was Saturday, December 17, from 9:00 am–12:00 pm. There were four delivery routes (with two OVUC people in each vehicle). Two-thirds of the hampers were delivered, while one-third were picked up at church. The coordinators were at the church for pick-up. Apple cider and cookies were served and appreciated by several.
- Each OVUC hamper included a \$60 gift card, plus \$10 card for each additional adult or child:

- Basic Hamper	35 x \$60.00=	\$2,100.00
- Extra adult/child	59 x \$10.00=	<u>590.00</u>
Total cost of hampers		\$2,690.00

There was a surplus of congregational donations of \$270.00. These funds were used to purchase toiletries that were delivered to Salvation Army for distribution; boxes of mints were also purchased and one put into each of the 35 hampers prepared by OVUC.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Sweatman and Helen Seymour
Christmas Hamper Program Coordinators

4.7.5 Meet Your Feet Foot Care Clinic

The proposal for a “foot care” clinic was presented by the Outreach Committee to Council in the spring of 2015. Council approved the idea. After a few months of planning, Meet Your Feet clinics became a reality in October 2015.

Meet Your Feet clinics have continued since then, once a month, in Kentville (Open Arms), New Minas (Orchard Valley United Church), and Wolfville (St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church). Cheryl Manzer, LPN (Foot Care Specialist), and volunteers have provided exceptional service and care to a total of 125 clients. The clients who attend are very grateful for the welcoming, friendly and professional attention they receive. Thank you to the volunteers who faithfully attend and welcome the clients.

The purpose of the program is to provide free access to quality foot care that will enhance a person's independence and safety in their daily life at home and in the community. Our clients often experience other issues including limited mobility, isolation and or literacy difficulties. We provide a trusting, caring atmosphere, in which we offer personal and practical services, and, when appropriate, connect clients with other community services as needed. The volunteers welcome each client and provide friendly conversation and healthy snacks.

Approximately 35–40 people attend one of the clinics each month. They all express their gratitude.

Taxi or Kings Point to Point Transit service is included when the client has no other means of transportation.

The clinic expenses include nursing care, transportation and medical supplies.

The Council continues to set aside \$1000 per year to support the clinics.

We are grateful to have received community funding as follows:

Eastern Kings Board of Health: Start-up Fund	\$ 1,300
Eastern Kings Memorial Health Foundation Start-up Fund	5,376
Mud Creek Rotary	2,000
Donations from individuals, in excess of	800

In conclusion, Meet Your Feet is a great “hands on” service that Orchard Valley United Church provides the community. The clients and the volunteers continually report that the Meet Your Feet program is a unique and meaningful way to make a difference in our community.

We are grateful for the financial support of government and community agencies that have helped Orchard Valley United Church reach out into the community in this unique and meaningful way.

Healthy feet promote safety, independence, community engagement.....happy people.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Sweatman

4.8 Pastoral Care Committee

2016 Members: Joy Waterbury (Chair)
Nancy Handrigan (Secretary and Card Secretary [Jan-Jun])
Vera Burke
Mary Crouch
Mary Larkin
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie
Noreen MacGregor
Brenda MacKean-Barss
Jean Millett
Edna Roach

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ivan Norton
Theresa Perrin (Card Secretary, Jun-Dec)

The Orchard Valley United Church Pastoral Care Committee, in partnership with the Ministry Team, coordinated pastoral care visitation to members of the congregation (and other United Church of Canada people) living in our communities. The Pastoral Care Committee encouraged and supported Orchard Valley United Church home, hospital, and institution visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited.

The Committee met monthly except for the summer months. The meetings all started with a meditation and ended with a blessing and prayer circle.

We reported to the OVUC Council, attended Council training and attended the Council meetings. Bills for expenses were forwarded to Council for payment from a 2016 prepared budget of \$1,250. OVUC Pastoral Care committee was updated.

Partnership with clergy is essential for Pastoral Care. Rev. Ivan Norton participated in meetings. For this, we are very grateful. Thank-you to our OVUC Administrative Assistant, Theresa Perrin, for her assistance throughout the year.

We paid Kings Point-To-Point transportation for members to be brought to church. We organize people to provide hospitality to these folks by meeting them at the door, sitting with them, and seeing them safely out to the awaiting driver. Cab transportation has been provided for church families to attend church functions and committee members provided drives to church functions also. We are monitoring the cost of these pastoral care transportation transactions.

Nursing Home Services for seniors were attended monthly by committee members who provided assistance when needed. Bulletins were hand-delivered to Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Homes and private homes for members unable to attend church. Visits in private and Nursing Homes, community, and church were done. Meals were provided for families in need, cards were sent, telephone calls were made, funerals were attended, meals and shelter for homeless were provided, and emails were sent. Hospital visitation by committee members was done on an as-needed basis.

Pastoral Care's two sub-committees were Prayer Shawl Ministry and Spirit Yoga. They added to the experiences of our caring community at Orchard Valley United Church. Ten knitters

produced prayer shawls with approximately 53 prayer being presented to individuals to extend our prayers and love. Thirty-four people sought to experience the healing benefits and unique wisdom offered to us by both Christianity and the Yogic tradition through Spirit Yoga.

Two committee members attended a suicide prevention presentation in September at Berwick Camp.

The Committee hosted a presentation on Advanced Care Planning with Jennifer Longley speaking which reached approximately 30 people.

A program called “You’ve Got A Friend” was organized by Vera Burke to help keep in touch with all OVUC members. Thank-you to our callers: Susanne Sweatman, Judy Maxwell, Vivian MacPhee, Edna Roach, Eleanor and Ned Chase, Linda Draper, Linda Swindells, Mary Crouch, Peggy Jones, Anne Clattenburg, Helen Hansford, Fran Turner, Betty Rockwell, Margaret Curry, Cay Wynn and Gloria Hick.

We wish to thank those Church members who donated cards, stamps, time and money for our OVUC Pastoral Care work throughout 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Waterbury, Chair
Pastoral Care Committee

4.9 Property Committee

2016 Members: Norma Mailman (Council Rep and Secretary)
 Carl Hick
 Don Rockwell
 Helen Seymour

This Committee had four members throughout the year, with Rev. Norton attending some meetings.

This Committee carries a great a deal of responsibility for the everyday and ongoing function of the facility.

We were responsible for:

- Submitting an expenditure budget to the Finance Committee;
- Continual upkeep and maintenance of the sanctuary/hall, grounds and storage facilities to ensure that they are safe and ready for use;
- Filing Fire Safety forms with the Inspector & Fire Marshal;
- Authorizing Usage Agreements when required;
- Security;
- Submitting reports and attending Council meetings;

- Maintaining requirements under the Fire & Evacuation regulations;
- Regulating Property contents including removals, changes, and additions;
- Renewing storage facilities (in Billtown and in container at the rear of the church);
- Submitting the committee's duties to Judy Norton for inclusion in a Council handbook; and
- In consultation with M&P, revising and renewing a contract for Louis Lightfoot, our custodian.

In addition:

- We purchased detergent for the commercial dishwasher;
- Conducted inspections on the fire extinguishers and Valley Alarms system;
- Replaced the motion light (at the rear) with a highly profiling, low wattage, automatic control;
- Removed branches at the east front of the property to make lighting clearer;
- Made upgrades after a Fire Inspection. This included installing power plates and a lever door handle, clearing pathways to ensure barrier-free exits (ongoing), re-attaching a security button, un-jamming the breaker panel, and erecting revised internal signage;
- Purchased a new vacuum cleaner;
- Obtained an air purifier and purchased a new chair for use in the office;
- Sold some excess inventory;
- Considered refacing the granite monument;
- Returned basketball poles/netting;
- With exceptional help from the Nortons and the Men's Club, crack-filled and painted the front entryway; and
- Purchased an Omni Directional microphone.

Future or in-process considerations include:

- Pallets and unused signage;
- Signage at Commercial Street;
- Excess inventory sales;
- Letters & stripes for entry sign;
- Granite monument (permanent site);
- Kitchen dilemma;
- Hose caddy; and
- Roof check.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Mailman, Secretary
Property Committee

4.10 Stewardship Committee

2016 Members: Ruth-Anne Stirling (Chair)
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie (Secretary, Jan-Sep, 2016)
Vicky Austin (Secretary, Oct-Dec, 2016)
Heather Hennigar
Lisa Cormier
Judy Gilmour
Cheryl Manzer
Sandra Tremblett

Ex-officio: Judy Norton

The Committee held ten meetings in 2016. With regret, we accepted Vangé's resignation in September. We thank her for her dedication to the role of Recording Secretary since the first OVUC Stewardship Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2012. Stewardship initiatives in 2016 included:

- **Soup Lunches:** Eight monthly lunches raised approximately \$5,562 before expenses. In addition to being increasingly well attended, there were a number of take-outs ordered and delivered. We thank the many OVUC members who support the lunches and often bring their friends. We thank Vangé Leslie and Sandra Tremblett for creating the beautiful and seasonally themed table settings. We are grateful to the Men's Group members who volunteer to serve beverages, clear tables and occasionally provide music. Thank you to the women who serve and clean up each table, collect the money at the door and/or bake whatever is needed for desserts. None of these lunches would be possible without our dedicated soup chefs Beth Pattillo and Cheryl Manzer. Additional thanks go to Louis Lightfoot and Theresa Perrin for their ongoing assistance.
- **Memorial Hymn Sing:** Held on September 18, 2016, this event brought in an estimated \$2,600 in donations. Ken Hassell and members of the choir provided additional voices and music for the evening. We thank them for their participation and support. The lyrics of each chosen hymn were included alongside the names of the in-memoriam donations.
- **Mandate:** The Stewardship Committee recently refined its Mandate to read as follows: The Mandate of the Stewardship Committee is *to educate the congregation on the mission of our church locally and abroad, the funds needed and the importance of commitment and participation (time, talents and treasures)*. The committee also reports on the total givings and where the funds are used. With the guidance of Judy Norton, this committee is actively working to create a narrative budget as part of developing a Congregational Giving Program in 2017. Committee members participated in readings for a stewardship-themed service on Sunday, October 23, 2016. We look forward to continuing the work of OVUC in prayer and fellowship.

- **Memorial Giving Tree:** The Giving Tree is an annual Stewardship project that takes place during Advent. Donations are made in memory or celebration of family, friends or special occasions. With each donation, we exchange a red ribbon on the tree for a white ribbon. The goal is to have a tree full of white ribbons by Christmas Day. The total raised this year was \$2,050.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Austin, Secretary
Stewardship Committee

4.11 Worship Committee

2016 Members: Cynthia Bruce (Chair)
Carolyn Bishop (Secretary)
Marion Buchan
Thea Burton
Pat Godfrey
Betty Rockwell
Kathy Schofield

Ex-officio: Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton
Ken Hassell

The Worship Committee met monthly to consider and respond to the various issues that our mandate requires us to resolve in a timely and dedicated manner. The following is a list of the main items and activities our committee dealt with:

- Arranged worship schedules for our weekly worship services (9:00 am and 11:00 am) and for the Covenanter and Senior Worship services;
- Approved requests for Baptism, Marriage and Membership;
- Arranged services for Lent and Easter;
- Scheduled Christmas Services for New Minas and Covenanter churches;
- Obtained Pulpit Supply as required;
- Received comments about worship format and took appropriate action;
- Prepared and arranged for servers for the Sacrament of Holy Communion;
- Participated in workshops pertaining to transition; and
- Reviewed and amended our committee mandate.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I extend thanks and appreciation to the following:

- Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton, for providing dedicated spiritual leadership;
- The choir, for providing inspirational anthems and those offering special music; and
- Ken Hassell, for providing great musical direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Bruce, Chair
Worship Committee

5. OTHER GROUPS

5.1 Orchard Valley Men's Group

The Orchard Valley United Church Men's Group consists of about 15 regular attendee members. We meet every first Sunday of the month for breakfast and fellowship at The Big Stop in New Minas.

Over the past year, we have been involved in the following activities:

- Attended a Men's Retreat in Amherst, NS in April;
- Conducted the Fundscrip fundraising program and The Guys' Cans fundraising program. A total of 71 Guys' Cans were opened and counted by the Men's Group on December 14, 2016. The Guys' Cans contributed \$2,381.55. The proceeds go directly into church finances, which help offset the cost of various programs;
- Helped on a regular basis with the OVUC Soup Luncheons, held the first Tuesday of each month at the church;
- Assisted the Property Committee with maintenance and special projects on an as-required basis;
- Put up the church Christmas Tree, as we are tasked to do each year; and
- Provided assistance with organizing the Church Camping Weekend at Sherbrooke Lake Camp this past fall.

We extend an invitation to ALL MEN at Orchard Valley United Church to come out and join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Seymour, Chair
OVUC Men's Group

5.2 Orchard Valley UCW (OV-UCW)

The women of Orchard Valley UCW follow their purpose to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month, 2:00 pm at Orchard Valley United, September through June. Due to the average age of the membership, they find they are unable to be as active in fundraising as they used to be. However, the ladies are always ready to assist wherever they are able. The group's regular fundraisers included ordering from the Regal catalogue, selling Friendship pins and a hosting Bring & Buy sale.

The meetings are opened with meaningful devotions, with topics appropriate for the season, led by the members. The business meeting and program are followed by a time of fellowship.

Cards are sent to members in time of illness, grief and keeping in touch. Attendance was between 10 and 15 per meeting.

Programs included:

- Speakers John Andrew and his wife spoke about “Open Arms” and the work they do to help the homeless;
- Speaker Sarah Hiltz gave a very informative talk about local community gardens and how meals made from the produce are prepared for others, with the help of volunteers;
- Speaker Nancy Henry, a member of the Kikima Grannies spoke about how the group helps Kenya grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren. A large amount of unneeded costume jewelry was donated to the Grannies;
- Speaker Susan Surette-Draper spoke on “Acadians in the Valley”, which was very informative;
- “Memory Box” – Members brought stories of their ancestry, where they grew up, an early church held in a home and interesting things in their lives;
- “Summer Activities” – members shared interesting activities they and family took part in during the summer; and
- Bible Trivia – Questions and answers were led by a member.

Activities taken part in:

- **World Day of Prayer** hosted by OV-UCW at Orchard Valley United. Theme: “Receive Children, Receive Me”. Written by the women of Cuba. Representatives from eight churches took part; 65 people attended. Orchard Valley Sunday School colored pictures of the Butterfly Jasmin Flower, which were posted at the front. Donations toward the work of the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada totaled \$456.15.
- **M&S Sunday** – Members took part in the service at Orchard Valley United.
- **The UCW Biennial** was held at the Knox United Church in Brookfield, NS. Theme “Love in my Heart”. Diane Olsen was the only one attending from the Valley. The next Biennial will be held in PEI.
- **The United Church Women of the Valley Presbytery of Maritime Conference** are recognized for giving \$4,239 in 2015 for the Mission & Service of the United Church of Canada. God’s Mission, Our Gifts. Certificate of Thanksgiving signed by The Right Rev. Jordon Cantwell, Moderator – March 2016.
- **Valley Presbytery UCW Spring Rally** was held at St. George and St. Andrew United Church, Annapolis Royal. Theme: “Piece by Peace”. Each UCW was asked to bring a quilt block that was quilted into a lovely quilt for the refugee family sponsored by St. George & St. Andrew United. Ten women of Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge were remembered at the Memorial Service.
- **June Closing Luncheon** was catered to at Orchard Valley United by the Friday Morning Breakfast Group. Members of “Kikima Grannies” spoke following lunch.

- **UCW Day at Berwick Camp** featuring an afternoon program presented by the L'Arche "Home Fires" Wolfville. This included a history of their organization and a picture of their present-day work. Two clients were in attendance and they had articles made by participants for sale. A fellowship time at the "UCW Cookie Cottage" was enjoyed.
- **Catered to the Schofield / Jenner Wedding at the Greenwich Fire Hall.** The Unit was assisted by the congregation and the Friday Morning Breakfast Group. The couple was given a prayer shawl.
- Contributions of items for **Chrysalis House** is an ongoing project with the assistance of the congregation.
- **Maritime Conference UCW Newsletter and "Keeping in Touch" News for UCW Groups** - copies made available.
- **United Church Calendars** were sold to members of the congregation.
- **Christmas UCW Luncheon** was a combined time of fellowship of the Orchard Valley UCW Unit and the Wolfville UCW Unit, at the Old Orchard Inn. There was a good turnout by both Units.
- **Donations** were given to the M&S Fund, Christmas Assistance Program, Open Arms, Hospice, and Orchard Valley United General Fund.

The Orchard Valley United Church Women thank all who assisted in any way as well as those who came out to support us. We look forward to another year of fellowship as we follow our purpose.

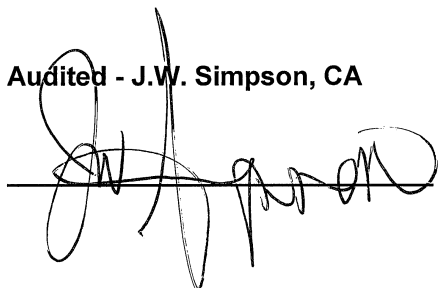
Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett, President

**ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
Annual Financial Report
2016**

Revenue		
Collections		\$151.64
Reception		1,350.00
Regal		410.00
Pins		12.03
Donations		110.00
Interest and Service Charge Reversal		2.48
Total Revenue		2,036.15
Expenditure		
Reception Cost	\$674.64	
Greeting Cards	8.00	
Service Charges	<u>3.75</u>	686.39
Donations		
OVPC General Operations	500.00	
Mission & Service Fund	500.00	
Outreach Food Hampers	200.00	
Open Arms	100.00	
Valley Hospice	150.00	
Gift Card	<u>25.00</u>	1,475.00
Total Expenditure		2,161.39
Excess of Expenditure Over Revenue		(\$125.24)

Audited - J.W. Simpson, CA



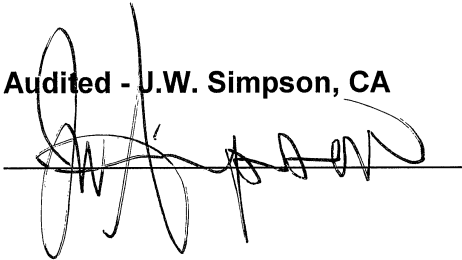
**ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Cash Reconciliation

2016

Bank Balance - January 1st	\$525.14
Cash on Hand - January 1st	12.67
Add: Total Revenue as per Financial Report	2,036.15
	<hr/> 2,573.96
 Deduct: Total Expenditure as per Financial Report	 2,161.39
	<hr/> \$412.57 =====
 Cash and Bank Balance - December 31st	
 Valley Credit Union Savings Account - December 31st	 \$412.57
 Cash on Hand - December 31st	 0.00
	<hr/> \$412.57 =====

Audited - J.W. Simpson, CA



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.W. Simpson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

5.3 Wolfville UCW (UCW-W)

Executive: Jane Hynes, President
Jan Porter, Treasurer
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie, Secretary
Ann Booth, Phone
Hughanne Hennigar and Andy Pitter, Events and Correspondence

The Wolfville Unit of UCW met at Wickwire Place in Wolfville, at 1:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, with the exceptions of July and August. Some months varied due to holidays.

We held 10 meetings, with 10 being the average attendance.

Our purpose is:

To unite the Women of the Congregation for the Total mission of the church and provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ through Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship, and Service.

Our programs were led by:

- Lynn McLelland and Hughanne Hennigar, regarding our history;
- Kathy Sheriko of Camp Triumph;
- Andy Pitter on origami;
- Michelle Parker on Kings County Seniors Safety; and
- Jane Hynes on thoughts of Thanksgiving.

We had two luncheons and two socials.

January: We changed our meeting time from 2:00 pm to 1:30 pm. A donation was made to the Wolfville and Area Foodbank.

February: We celebrated Jean Carey's 100th birthday by sponsoring a church bulletin. A donation was made to WAICC Refugee Fund. Members attended World Day of Prayer meetings.

March: Members took part in the World Day of Prayer service held at St. John's Anglican Church. We sang at the St. Patrick's Day Tea at the Wolfville Nursing Home. Donations were made to Camp Triumph and North Grand Pré Community Church in memory of Jean Palmeter.

April: We led the worship services at the Wolfville Elms and Wolfville Nursing Home. A donation was made to the Covenanter Church in memory of Doreen Kelly. Members attended the Volunteer Tea at the Wolfville Nursing Home.

May: Members attended the UCW Rally held in Annapolis Royal.

September: No business.

October: Members visited Helen Buckler on her birthday. Plans to place Brunswick Street box were made.

November: No meeting held. Brunswick Street boxes were placed by Andy Pitter and Ann Booth.

December: Luncheon at the Old Orchard Inn. Ann Booth delivered the Brunswick Street boxes. Many thanks to those who contributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Hynes, President
Wolfville Unit of UCW

**Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge
UCW Wolfville Unit
Annual Financial Report
2016**

Balance - January 1, 2016 **\$187.49**

Revenue:

Dues collection \$ 371.35

Total Revenue **\$558.84**

Expenditures:

Donations:

OVUC, in Jean Carey's name \$20.00

WAICC for the Refugee Support Network \$100.00

Camp Triumph \$25.00

North Grand Pré Community Church,
in memory of Jean Palmeter \$25.00

Covenanter Heritage Fund
in memory of Doreen Kelly \$20.00

Total Expenditures **(\$195.00)**

Balance - December 31, 2016 **\$363.84**

5.4 Friday Women's Breakfast Group

The group was joined by several new faces for breakfast this year. As an outreach gathering, the Breakfast Group is open to any lady in or around the community. Typically, 20-25 women would attend each Friday morning. Cheryl Manzer is head cook with Beth Pattillo her able assistant. There is no charge for breakfast however free-will donations are accepted. Through these offerings and some catering, we have been able to support worthwhile projects such as the Benevolent Fund at OVUC, the Mission and Service Fund, Open Arms, and the Youth Group, to name a few.

The three ladies' retreats held this year were well attended; one was at OVUC, one in Economy, and one in Weymouth.

Much fun, fellowship, prayer, laughter sharing and, of course, meaningful conversation filled our times together.

On December 23, the group welcomed the congregation to a special Christmas breakfast. Our oldest member, Vivian MacPhee, instigated this special event and did the decorating. Over 70 people were fed and then treated to special entertainment – "Christmas at the Bethlehem Fawltly."

All OVUC ladies and their friends are welcome to come out at 8:00 am any Friday morning and join the happy circle.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hennigar

OVUC Womens Breakfast Group

Financial Statements for year ending December 31, 2016

Income Statement Jan 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Revenue

Breakfast Donations	2,122.00
Catering and Fundraising	370.00
Programming	650.00
TOTAL Revenue	<u>3,142.00</u>

Expenses

Bank Fees	24.00
Benevolent Fund	600.00
Gifts	941.99
Youth Group	150.00
Programming and Retreat Expense	900.00
Supplies-Food and other	553.60
TOTAL Expenses	<u>3,169.59</u>

Net Income	<u>- 27.59</u>
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Net Worth as at Dec 31, 2016

Balance forward - Dec 31, 2015	83.25
Income 2016	3,142.00
Expenses 2016	<u>- 3,169.59</u>
Closing Balance - Dec 31, 2016	<u>55.66</u>

Submitted By

Jennie Bustin

Heather Hennigar

5.5 Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl group met once a month throughout the year under the leadership of Jean Millett. Average attendance was 5–6. Meetings were held at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. There were a total of 52 prayer shawls given out this year. Of these, 3 were given to announce a Baptism, Marriage or other celebration; 28 were given as an expression of caring to those who were ill, recovering from surgery or injured; and 21 were given as a comfort at a time of loss or the occasion was not recorded.

We would welcome anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting to drop by for a few hours of friendship. Yarn, needles/hooks and patterns are available at the church for those who prefer to work at home.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Seymour, Member

5.6 Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC)

WAICC helped sponsor two Syrian refugee families: the Tahina family and the Ali family. Wolfville Baptist is the shareholder and the committee is made up of members largely from the community at large with Rev. Judith Tod and Dr John Murimboh co-chairing. Orchard Valley invited both families to our Family Camp in September, along with a Catholic-sponsored Syrian family, and they all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Sherbrooke Lake Camp.

Long-time secretaries Gene Trites and Diana Shelley stepped down after many, many years in this shared position. They were honoured at a dinner at Evangeline Motor Inn.

Another new development is WAICC has decided to pursue incorporation to better protect its volunteers from liability. Orchard Valley supports this decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Pitter, OVUC Representative

5.7 Kentville, New Minas and Area Council of Churches (KNMACC)

The present officers of the Council of Churches are:

President - Myrna Blenkhorn
Vice-President – vacant
Secretary - Theresa VanderTuin
Treasurer - Richard Clattenburg

Meetings take place on a rotating basis every two months from September to May with 16 churches making up the council.

Ecumenical Worship -

- **January 24, 2016 - Christian Unity Service** – Hosted by Bethany Memorial Baptist Church, Kentville. Four young speakers talked on issues relating to poverty, human trafficking, conflict and terror. Well attended. Donations - \$364.05.
- **March 23, 2016 - Good Friday Service** – Hosted by Hope Centre Family Church, New Minas. Theme was Blessings of the Cross. Donations - \$474.15.
- **June 26, 2016 - Baccalaureate Service for NKEC Grads & their families, staff** – Hosted by First Cornwallis Baptist Church, Upper Canard. A BBQ with games and music was the program. Very well attended.
- **November 20, 2016 - Advent Service** – Hosted by the Kentville Baptist Church. Theme was Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. A very large turnout. All donations were given to the Fundy Food Bank.

Christmas Assistance Program – The Salvation Army heads up this program, starting in November to take applications. The Salvation Army buys the toys for the “Toy Store” and gift cards for the youth. Other churches donate toiletries for the adults. The parents can choose appropriate gifts for their child from the “Toy Store”. The names of the applicants are then distributed to the churches in the area where the hampers or gift cards are either delivered to the applicant’s home or picked up at a designated location.

Home Heating Program/Good Neighbour Fund – This program is regulated by NS Power through the Salvation Army. The program runs from January 15 to April 15 each year for those people who qualify for assistance. A family may apply for \$400 every two years. 104 applicants were approved this year.

Fundy Food Bank, Kentville – Numbers continued to increase during 2016, with new families registering each week. The average amount of food per person was up by 13 % this year with more emphasis on fresh produce and dairy products. It is anticipated the Food Bank would distribute 100 metric tons of food by the end of 2016. The community support continues to be very strong not only through donations but also through food drives.

Food For Thought Program – Greg White of Sunset Rotary made envelopes available for donations to the Food For Thought School Breakfast Program.

Valley Foodgrains Bank Project – Again this year money was raised through the sales of pumpkins and 5 lb boxes of blueberries to help people in developing countries to better their ways of life. All donations were matched 4:1 by CIDA.

Vacation Bible School – Five churches held Vacation Bible Schools during the summer - Kentville Baptist Church, St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Kings Presbyterian Church, Bethany Memorial Baptist Church, and the Salvation Army.

Council of Churches Fund – \$932.01 will be distributed at the January 2017 meeting to a charity or charities, by the wishes of the council.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, OVUC KNMACC Representative

5.8 Valley Foodgrains Bank Project

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) was established in 1983 as a practical way for Canadian farmers to share their abundant harvest with the less fortunate of the world. The CFGB is made up of fifteen Canadian churches and church-based agencies, representing 30 denominations, all working together to end global hunger by:

- Supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security;
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger; and
- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

In 2015–2016, in over 40 countries, \$14 million was committed to agriculture and livelihoods programming.

Our local Valley Foodgrains Bank Project is one of many across Canada. This past year, two projects were held.

- A project for pumpkins, involving four churches in the area. Some of the pumpkins were donated by a local farmer and others were purchased at a reduced rate from Noggins Farm Market.
- Our other project was the blueberries, winter and fall, involving six churches in the area. The berries were purchased from Blueberry Acres. Generous donations were made by the KNMACC and an Orchard Valley United member. Due to these donations and donations from the projects, we were able to send a donation of \$2,000 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for the continuation of their work. This donation will be matched 4:1 by CIDA. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make these projects a success. We hope to be able to have more blueberries later in the winter, to start off our 2017 year.

Financial:

Bank Balance from 2015	\$ 361.11
Funds in from Projects & Donations	4,101.50
Expenses	(2,283.50)
Net cash balance	2,179.11
Donation to CFGB	2,000.00
<u>Balance Forward to 2017</u>	<u>179.11</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett, Secretary–Treasurer
Valley Foodgrains Bank Project

5.9 Valley Presbytery Report

During 2016, your presbytery reps continued to faithfully attend the regularly scheduled meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of each month. OVUC's congregational reps are: Joanne Olive; Maxine Phinney; and Gail Gordon; along with Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton. We are represented on the following committees: Christian Life and Growth, Education and Students, Nominations, Pastoral Oversight, and Stewardship. Gail and Joanne are also on the Executive which meets when the full court does not or when necessary.

In February, our Order of the Day was an informative and detailed PowerPoint presentation on the General Council (GC42) decisions regarding Regional Councils, and other levels of the proposed three-tier structure being recommended to the church. This was presented by Linda Moffat, our General Council representative.

In 2016, Rev. Bill Gibson retired, conducting his last service at the Windsor United Church on May 29. We wished Rev. Michael Mugford well as he accepted a full-time appointment to Harbourside Pastoral Charge in the Halifax Presbytery which began July 1, 2016.

Valley Presbytery presided at two Covenanting Services; one on July 10, for Rev. Alex Constable at Grace United Church in Digby; and one for Rev. Judith Perry at Windsor United Church on December 18, 2016.

Joanne attended the meeting of Maritime Conference in May. (For the digest of actions, see the Maritime Conference website). Valley Presbytery drafted and forwarded a proposal regarding funding and allocations. Although it was defeated, it prompted a serious discussion on the floor of Conference regarding the Conference Budget and led to a better understanding by those attending the annual meeting. Brandan Davidson represented Orchard Valley at Youth Forum and later this fall at a Youth Event in Debert, NS.

The Church in Action Committee, chaired by Rev. Krista Anderson, sponsored The Blanket Exercise held at the St. George & St Andrew United Church in Annapolis Royal on June 21, 2016. This coincided with National Aboriginal Day. This committee was also instrumental in supporting Caribou Legs in his run through the Annapolis Valley in support of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

Presbytery has begun their work studying the remits. Remits 5, 7 and 8 were presented, discussed and voted on by Valley Presbytery at our November meeting and the results of the voting on the remits are as follows:

- Remit 5: Ministry Partners within Mutual Recognition of Ministry Agreements - YES
- Remit 7: Candidacy Pathway - NO
- Remit 8: A Step Towards a New Model of Membership -YES

These are remits voted on by Presbyteries but in 2017, we as a congregation will look at those assigned to us. For more information, consult the National Church website.

Valley Presbytery continues to work diligently to fulfill their responsibilities. Property matters have diminished as there has been a lull in the sale of buildings. Pastoral Relations has been especially busy ensuring that Pastoral Charges have ministers in their pulpits. Like many Presbyteries in our conference, Valley Presbytery does not operate with full representation from all the Pastoral Charges. We are lucky to have dedicated people working on our behalf. It

has been my pleasure to represent Orchard Valley. It has been a wonderful learning experience and opportunity to meet others in our Conference who share love and respect for the United Church of Canada.

The future of Presbytery and the governance of the United Church has yet to be decided but I encourage you to become engaged in the process as we listen to where the Spirit is leading our church in this time of change.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Olive
OVUC Presbytery Representative

6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members:

- Harvey Gilmour (Chair)
- Gary Dunfield (Treasurer)
- Nancy Handrigan (Secretary)
- Jennie Bustin
- Ned Chase
- John Cochrane
- Bryan Draper
- Ian Godfrey
- Don Rockwell
- Debbie Selig
- Joan Tracey

The Board of Trustees met three times in 2016 to deal with matters pertaining to the church's property and investments.

It was decided to purchase of the Lower Horton Cemetery which has been maintained by the Covenanter Church to date.

The mandate of the Board of Trustees was reviewed as part of the transition work of the church and several members attended a training session on the Council and Committee structure of the church.

There was a report from the Investment Committee, approval to transfer funds to the operating account of the church, the auditor was approved, and Trustees dealt with the matter of police checks.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Handrigan, Secretary
OVPC Board of Trustees

2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Orchard Valley United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
March 6, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND CONSTITUTION:** by Rev. Ivan Norton
Due to the fact that Susan Cater was unavailable due to illness, an election was held to fill the position of Chair for the meeting. Gary Dunfield moved that Jane McDonald be Chair. It was seconded by ????

Jane was asked if she would let her name stand. She indicated yes. The congregation voted in favour and Jane McDonald took over as Chair for the meeting.

2. **OPENING PRAYER:** Given by Rev. Ivan Norton.

3. **GRANTING OF VOTING PRIVILEGES:**

MOTION: Approval of adherents to participate in the meeting.

Moved: Peter Dekker

Seconded: Cecil White

CARRIED

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

New Business – Mail-out of bulletins

Committee Reports – to be presented before Trustee's, include Covenanter to Committee reports

MOTION: Approval of agenda with amendments.

Moved: Bill Simpson

Seconded: Bryan Draper

CARRIED

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS CIRCULATED:**

MOTION: That the minutes be approved as circulated.

Moved: Carol Pettigrew

Seconded: Cecil White

CARRIED

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – none

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Correction – UCW correction of name Susan Cargill.

MOTION: To adopt Committee Reports as circulated with the exception of Trustees, Finance and Nominating.

Moved: Ken Hassell

Seconded: Norma Mailman

CARRIED

8. **TRUSTEES FINANCIAL REPORT**

Reports were presented by Gary Dunfield. Documents were prepared by Kelly Coombs, Charter Accountant for OVPC. Gary indicated he would be available to answer any questions should they arise.

MOTION: To approve Trustee Report as circulated.

Moved: Scott Sweatman **Seconded:** Heather Hennigar **CARRIED**

9. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Reports were presented by Bill Simpson, Treasurer. Bill highlighted sections of the report that could be of special interest. Discussion was held highlighting the differences between budget amounts and actuals.

MOTION: To adopt the Finance Report for 2015 as circulated.

Moved: Angela Whiteway **Seconded:** Carol Pettigrew **CARRIED**

10. **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Presentation by Bill Simpson.

MOTION: To approve the budget for 2016 as circulated.

Moved: Bill Simpson **Seconded:** Pat Foote

Discussion:

- i. Question re no housing allowance for our ministers. Clarification that there has been a change by UCC.
- ii. Question about how we pay Bill MacLeod – explanation by Jane that we pay him on a per hourly basis plus travel expenses.

CARRIED

MOTION: To retain Kelly Coombs for financial review for next year.

Moved: Bill Simpson **Seconded:** Betty Curry **CARRIED**

11. **NOMINATING REPORT**

Presentation of Nominating Report by Heather Hennigar

MOTION: To approve the Nominating Report as presented.

Moved: Heather Hennigar **Seconded:** Bill Simpson **CARRIED**

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. **Presented by John Cochrane**

MOTION: The congregation authorize and approve the purchase or acquisition by the Trustees of OVPC of the Lower Horton Cemetery Company property at Grand Pré surrounding the present

Covenanter Church property, being PID no. 55521058, for the sum of \$1.00 with both vendor and purchaser legal fees to be born by the Covenanter Committee.

Moved: John Cochrane

Seconded: Gary Dunfield

CARRIED

Discussion – How much has been spent in the past on the cemetery?

Response by Betty Curry – \$1,000.00

Clarification by Jane McDonald that 400.00 is allocated in this year's budget.

CARRIED

ii. Presentation of Transition Report by Rev. Bill MacLeod

The identity piece is almost complete and we will be sharing that with the congregation very soon. We are meeting next Saturday and I am with the congregation on Sunday. We will have a more significant report at that time. We have identified several goals related to the recommendations and will be sharing that progress with the congregation and the Presbytery. I want to have the opportunity to meet with the Transition Team on Saturday so that we do not pre-empt their opportunity to prepare for a report. Unfortunately, our meeting comes after your AGM.

We will be signaling the need for a Stewardship emphasis as we go forward. That will be an initiative in the near future. At this time, it would be productive for the congregation to work to establish a current Roll of membership so that we have an idea of the size and resources of the congregation.

We (Judy, Ivan, and I) are working to plan the training for Council members. We are looking at rescheduling that work in April or early May.

As to timeline, we are working to a two-year timeline. At this time, we are on schedule. I will be sharing my interim report after the Transition Team has had an opportunity to review it.

We need the patience of the congregation as we assure them that we are working to accomplish the areas identified in the review. In that regard, recommendation #1 is in place, #2 is well along in the planning stage, #3 is being addressed as we meet and hold discussions with the Presbytery Executive. I see recommendation #4 being addressed in the future (probably Fall/Winter 2016/2017).

I hope that this helps as you prepare for tomorrow's meeting.

Blessings, Bill

iii. Question about stopping sending out Bulletins

Communication Committee clarified that they tried to reach out to as many people as possible and if someone has been missed, contact Communication Committee.

13. **CLERGY REPORT:** Ivan and Judy reported that they feel we have turned a corner and things are looking good. They are enjoying their time with us.

Thanks to Nominating, Jane McDonald and Trustees and Finance Committees.

14. MEMORIALS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

15. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Moved: Carol Pettigrew

Seconded: Betty Curry

CARRIED

16. **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:** Prayer offered by Rev. Ivan Norton

Roll of the Annual Congregational Meeting March 6, 2016

Attendance = 79

Vicky Austin	Heather Hennigar	Don Rockwell
Carol Beck	Carl Hick	Betty Rockwell
Cynthia Bruce	Gloria Hick	Debbie Selig
Marion Buchan	Sylvia Jacquard	Helen Seymour
Vera Burke	Peggy Jones	Chris Seymour
Hilda Burton	Evangeline Leslie	Bill Simpson
Eleanor Chase	Wayne MacDonald	Joan Simpson
Ned Chase	Shirley MacDonald	Sue Smith
Dick Clattenburg	Noreen MacGregor	Bruce Smith
John P. Cochrane	Norma Mailman	Peggy Smith
Mary Crouch	Cheryl Manzer	Peggy Spicer
Margaret Curry	Irma Maxell	Susanne Sweatman
Betty Curry	Elaine Maynard-Lloyd (A)	Scott Sweatman
Peter Dekker	Jane McDonald	Linda Swindells
Ernie Draper	Jean Millett	Lois Tracy
Bryan Draper	Valerie Mosher	David Tracy
Gary Dunfield	Dave Murphy	Fran Turner
Pat Foote	Rev. Ivan Norton (staff)	Bruce Tymchuk
Sheila Francis	Judy Norton	Cecil White
Rev. Ray A. Francis (Presbytery)	Peter Oleskevich	Joan White
Judy Gilmour	Carol Pettigrew	Gord Whiteway
Ian Godfrey	Lola Pineo	Marilyn Whiteway
Pat Godfrey	Dick Pineo	Angela Whiteway
Rebecca Godfrey	Andy Pitter	T.M. Williamson (A)
Helen Hansford	Edna Roach	Cay Wynn
Ken Hassell	Dorothy Robbins	
Margaret Hayes	Betty Rockwell	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017/18

<p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>Bustin, Jennie Chase, Ned Cochrane, John Draper, Bryan Dunfield, Gary Gilmour, Harvey Godfrey, Ian Handrigan, Nancy Rockwell, Don Selig, Debbie Tracey, Joan</p>	<p>Council Executive</p> <p>Dunfield, Gary (Chair) Burton, Thea (Secretary) Jacquard, Sylvia (Secretary) Smith, Bruce (Finance Chair) Simpson, Bill (Treasurer)</p>
<p>Congregational Leaders</p> <p>McDonald, Jane (Congregational Chair) Mosher, Valerie (Congregational Secretary)</p>	<p>Christian Development</p> <p>Dominey, Amanda Draper, Linda Hennigar, Heather Hill, Cheryl MacNeil, Lorna Pitter, Andy Schofield, Kathy Townsend, Meg</p>
<p>Communications Committee</p> <p>Dewar, Carol Jacquard, Sylvia McDonald, Jane (new)</p>	<p>Congregational Life Committee</p> <p>Godfrey, Rebecca Gordon, Gail Leslie, Vangé Manzer, Cheryl Simpson, Joan Stirling, Ruth-Anne Petrie, Pam (new)</p>
<p>Covenanter Church Committee</p> <p>Cochrane, John Curry, Betty Draper, Ernie Keech, Jim Keppie, Maggie McLelland, Lynn Robbins, Dorothy Crosby, Beth (new)</p>	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>Curry, Betty Foote, Pat Hansford, Helen Simpson, Bill (Treasurer) Smith, Bruce Bustin, Jennie (new) White, Cecil (new)</p>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2017/18

<p align="center">Ministry & Personnel Committee Godfrey, Ian Handrigan, Nancy Sweatman, Susanne Wooster, Carol</p>	<p align="center">Nominating Committee Chairs of OVPC Committees</p>
<p align="center">Outreach Committee Cater, Susan Manzer, Cheryl Ross, Kelly Smith, Sue Fisher, Sheila (new) Jacquard, Sylvia (new) Seymour, Helen (new) Spindler, Beth (new) Sweatman, Susanne (new)</p>	<p align="center">Pastoral Care Committee Burke, Vera Leslie, Vangé MacGregor, Noreen Millett, Jean Roach, Edna Turner, Frances Waterbury, Joy Dekker, Peter (new) Dunphy, Allyson (new) Dunphy, George (new) Lloyd, Edie (new) MacDonald, Betty (new)</p>
<p align="center">Presbytery Representatives Gordon, Gail Olive, Joanne Alternate: Phinney, Maxine</p>	<p align="center">Property Committee Mailman, Norma Rockwell, Don Seymour, Helen Clattenburg, Richard (new) Tymchuk, Bruce (new)</p>
<p align="center">Stewardship Committee Austin, Vicky Cormier, Lisa Gilmour, Judy Manzer, Cheryl Stirling, Ruth-Anne Swindells, Linda (new)</p>	<p align="center">Worship Committee Bruce, Cynthia Buchan, Marion Burton, Thea Cameron, Carolyn Godfrey, Pat Rockwell, Betty Schofield, Kathy</p>

BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS