

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

2017 Annual Report

March 18, 2018

Orchard Valley United Church



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Appendices:

- Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2017**
- Nominating Committee Report** (to be provided at the Annual Meeting)
- Budgets and Financial Reports**

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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 12 funeral/memorial services were held by OVUC in 2017:

- Mabel Elizabeth Buchanan
- Helen Grace Butler
- George Edward Creemer
- Keitha Dawn Crockett
- George Everett Fraser
- Judith Alma “Judy” Forsythe
- Anna Marie Meisner
- Carl Keith Miller
- William Josiah Mosher
- Robert Eric Paish
- Donald Edward Rockwell
- Roderick Otis Russell
- Bruce E. Scott
- Elaine Watson (Neily) (Rathbone) Woodworth

In addition, the following OVPC members passed away in 2017:

- Bertha (Jeanne) Bennett
- Marie Julia Hatt
- Donna Anne Lemmon
- Victor Heatherington MacKay
- Susan Lynn Proude

3. NOTES FROM COUNCIL, MINISTRY, AND STAFF

3.1 Gary Dunfield, Chair, OVUC Church Council

Greetings,

It has been a year since I accepted the position of Chair of Council for Orchard Valley United Church and it has been an interesting one. I wonder sometimes what people who do not go to church think about what we do. I suspect they wonder if we do much of anything other than meet for an hour or two on a Sunday morning. Well, if you don't already know, I can vouch for the fact that a great deal goes on, pretty much every day of the week. Our building is busy, our ministers and staff are busy, and judging by the number of emails and phone calls I (and I know others) deal with each week, our people are busy.

A great deal has happened over the past year. We have started the process of concluding the interim ministry we began almost three years ago and have successfully closed out the transition process. We have negotiated a new Joint Needs Assessment and appointed a Joint Search Committee. We have appointed a committee to examine our needs in terms of buildings. We have worshipped and worked together and carried out the ministries of the church. I can report that your council has worked well together and we are well positioned to continue that work.

We have a number of people to thank for the work that has been accomplished in the past year. First, we thank our staff members who have worked hard to serve us and have added greatly to the work that we do together. Our ministers, Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton, have continued in their faithful service both as ministers to the congregation and as guides and support to the transition process. Rev. Bill McLeod brought the transition process to a close and set us on the path forward. We also have a great number of people in our congregation to thank who serve on boards and committees and in programs and services. We especially want to thank those who step up to serve on special committees where the workload can be substantial.

We look forward to an interesting time ahead. As you will know by now, the Joint Search Committee will present a "name" in the coming week and I anticipate we could have a new minister in place in the next few months. This will be a time of transition as we say goodbye to Ivan and Judy – something we do with mixed emotion as we will miss them, while realizing that, for people who thought they had retired, they have gone above and beyond what anyone could have reasonably expected when they joined us two and a half years ago. This will be a time of substantial change for us.

We will also receive a report from the Facilities Study Committee that, if accepted, will set us on the path forward to better meet the needs of our congregation. This too will mean changes and more work.

And so we look back to a year that I have enjoyed. I believe we have made good progress in our work in ministry as a congregation and we look forward to an exciting year where we will hopefully make more progress. Thank you for the chance to serve as the Council Chair. May God bless you, your family, your friends, and our shared community.

Gary Dunfield,
Chair, OVUC Council

3.2 Rev Ivan and Judith Norton, Ministers

Ivan's mother thought that she was done with babies when his sister Lorraine was born in the early days of the Second World War. Not long after that birth, his father went into the service and then went Overseas. She only *thought* that she was finished with having babies. Ivan arrived when Lorraine was 12. Likewise, we thought we were done with writing annual reports when we retired in 2012. Then we were sure that 2016 would be the final edition. Let's hope that that report was the penultimate. Here are our thoughts around the year ended December 31, 2017.

That date marked five years of this venture that we know as Orchard Valley United Church. We celebrated the 5th Anniversary in grand style in September. We had a cake and noisemakers that we used after the Doxology, and what a job it was to restore order to the service. That same day we honoured the Rev. Bill MacLeod, thanking him for his ministry and leadership as Intentional Interim Minister.

2017 was our second full year with Orchard Valley. While we came in as interim presbytery supply, the elapsed time has allowed us to form a significant pastoral relationship. From our perspective we have come to love this congregation and regard it as a lovely surprise that we have been able to share in ministry with one more congregation. One of our contemporary hymns has taken on new meaning for the two of us on account of this sojourn with Orchard Valley.

One more step along the world I go....
From the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you.

This past year we engaged in all the usual sorts of things that a church does. We have gathered for worship, singing and praying and hearing God's Word. We've had two services each Sunday. There have been baptisms, a couple of weddings, and a number of funerals. We received folk into membership and we have welcomed people to our congregation – both new people and some who have returned. We have paid a good amount of attention to outreach. We have shared in worship and outreach with other congregations ecumenically, and we have continued to demonstrate a real commitment to our own outreach projects. These include: supporting and volunteering with three foodbanks; the Canucopia Food Drive – spring and fall; Y'All Come to Supper; Meet Your Feet; providing supper at Open Arms; sponsoring families for camp; helping individuals and families in crisis through the Benevolent Fund; several projects to aid the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, including sponsoring acres of corn; and the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church. Orchard Valley United Church does make a difference.

Speaking of making a difference in people's lives, our church does this in so many ways. The Prayer Shawl ministry continues to touch adults and children in times of illness, grief and upheaval and in times of celebration. The Pastoral Care Committee demonstrates a wonderful commitment to keeping in touch with and caring for senior members and a few shut-ins. Dozens of birthday, sympathy, get-well and thinking of you cards are sent during the year. The callers for the "You've Got a Friend" project are doing a great job at providing one more contact from the church.

The communities within the Orchard Valley community are significant. UCW and the Games Group, Lectionary Group and the Men's Breakfast Group, the Friday Morning Women's Breakfast, and each of our boards and committees, provide venues for people to meet each other and work together. We have come a great distance in becoming one Orchard Valley Church family. We'd like to highlight particularly the Sunday School programs (at both 9:00 and 11:00), and the Choir/Music program. We have seen good things happening in our children's programming. It's a real joy to see children and families becoming active. The Choir has welcomed new members and continues to provide inspiration week by week.

Mid-way through the year, the congregation appointed members to a Joint Search Committee to find new ministry for Orchard Valley. As well, a Facilities Needs Committee was appointed to consult and gather information around building needs and possibilities. These committees have important work to do. They are significant in that they are future-oriented. Orchard Valley has a future.

A young boy was working industriously, drawing a picture at his classroom desk. His teacher came by, looked at his attempt, and asked what he was drawing. He answered, "I'm drawing a picture of God." The teacher, in a matter-of-fact tone, allowed that this was impossible, because, "no one knows what God looks like." "You will as soon as I've finished," responded the child. We could wish that we had the faith of that little child. We could wish that we knew what the Church is going to look like down the road: this church, The United Church of Canada, and the Christian Church. These are times of tremendous change. That's true within our society where every institution is being redefined. It's certainly true in the church. In our lifetime, we have gone from a time when, in The United Church of Canada, we opened a new church, or a new hall, or a new manse, three times a week, for years on end. The building that we currently worship in was one of the last church-planting projects of Maritime Conference, and that was over 30 years ago. If this congregation has learned anything in the last five years, it has learned that the church is more about community than buildings; more about who we are and what we do than about hardwood and stained glass. That's good. The church always needs to be relevant. That's the difference between surviving and even flourishing, and being judged redundant and closed.

While we don't know what the church will look like in years to come, we're confident that there will be a church. God will see to that. Our calling is to be faithful, in discipleship, as a worshipping community, and as a people in mission. Whatever tomorrow's church looks like, we want to be part of it. If these are uncertain times, they're also exciting times. Surely we can be just as enthusiastic about church today and in the future, as we were in past years. We see exciting things happening in worship, and there's tremendous opportunity today for mission. Orchard Valley United Church is, in some ways, marvellously situated to embrace the future. We are a liberal Protestant church that continues to embrace our denominational heritage. Geographically, we serve most of eastern Kings County. Let's make sure that we're accounted for, working toward the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

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 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.

We celebrate that we have two new and returning members to our choir! Brenda Parker is now able to be back with us, and Mary McFarlane has also joined our choir family! We are so very happy to have you both!

At Easter, our numbers swelled with the addition of instrumentalists Cynthia Bruce, Glenn Bishop, Karen Hamblin, and Graham MacKinnon to accompany our anthems.

This Spring, we were blessed to have with us the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir–Junior Choir, who contributed greatly to our Sunday morning service.

In November, we participated in the annual ecumenical advent service planned and hosted by Paul Fowler and the New Minas Baptist Church.

During October, November, and the Advent season, we rehearsed and, on the Sunday before Christmas, presented our Service of Lessons and Carols. This service also featured readings by and leadership of: Marion Buchan; Peter, Karina, and Grace Oleskevich; Ian Godfrey; Helen Hansford; Dorothy Walker; Ernie Draper; Betty Curry; Gail Gordon; and Frank Maxwell. Thank you all!

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 and soloists through the year. A thank you also goes to Wayne MacDonald, Thea Burton, Cynthia Bruce, Grace Oleskevich, and Maya Hawley who gave of themselves and their 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

Members: Meg Townsend (Chair)
 Andy Pitter (Secretary)
 Kathy Schofield
 Amanda Dominey
 Linda Draper
 Heather Hennigar
 Cheryl Hill
 Lorna MacNeil

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton

This committee works to provide stewardship of Orchard Valley's Christian development programs 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.

Our activities in 2017 were:

- Sunday School (including a picnic, a White Gift worship and the completion of criminal record checks for all committee members who teach);
- Activities for the children at the 9:00 am worship;
- Programs for Y'All Come to Supper (with Congregational Life);
- A movie discussion focused on "The Gospel Road" (with Congregational Life providing desserts);
- Support for four families attending Sherbrooke Lake's family camps (4 adults, 11 children/youth) and Berwick Camp (5 adults, 9 children/youth). This included covering fees (using committee funds as well as the camp sponsorship money Congregational Life collected) and providing transportation; and
- A Reformation study over four Wednesday afternoons for the 500th anniversary.

Christian Development also supported the Lectionary Study Group, participated in discussions regarding Orchard Valley camping events, completed a facility need survey and provided worship at Kings Riverside Court in June.

Thank you to everyone who helped with these programs and activities! We especially appreciate all the work Judy Norton has done evaluating curriculum, giving advice, strengthening the Sunday School in other ways, working directly with our children at both worship services and at the Y'All Come suppers, meeting with the Lectionary Study Group, coming up with unique and interesting adult programs, and more. She will be hard to replace.

Respectfully submitted,

Andriel Pitter, Secretary
Christian Development Committee

4.2 Communications Committee

Members: Sylvia Jacquard (Chair)
Carol Dewar (Secretary)
Jane McDonald

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.

We continue to create twice-yearly newsletters at Advent and Easter. They are available in regular and large print versions which are emailed, posted on the website and available in church.

We publicize the monthly Soup and Dessert Luncheons and other events as requested.

Keeping the website up-to-date has been an ongoing task. Our goal for this year was making sure that any blanks were filled in. Our special project was adding a brief history of each of the amalgamated churches.

This year's "Stories from the Orchard" (pre-service slideshows that played for two consecutive Sundays) featured Mid-winter Mondays, Holy Week and Easter Events & Services, Apple Blossom Festival, Car Rally, Canucopia Food Bank Drives, OVU Pentecost Service and Sunday School Picnic, Y'All Come to Supper, and Children at OVUC.

We led a Seniors' Worship Service on September 10 at Kings Riverside Court based on the UCC liturgy resource for World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel for 2016, called Dismantling Barriers.

Our Facebook page has been updated and Jane McDonald is responsible for posting to it; we decided not to start anything new like Twitter or Instagram until we get our new minister.

Because we had panoramic photos of all of the amalgamating churches on the website except New Minas, we got the photographer, Paul Illsley, to take photos of the church so we could remedy this.

Our submission to the Facility Needs Review included the suggestion to have an LCD projector in the meeting room for presentations (which might also be a beneficial feature for renting our space). Thinking big, it would be wonderful to have the ability to do videoconferencing. Otherwise we felt we functioned well with our present space.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Jacquard, Chair
Communications Committee

4.3 Congregational Life Committee

Members: Rebecca Godfrey (co-Chair)
Gail Gordon (co-Chair)
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie
Cheryl Manzer
Pam Petrie
Ruth-Anne Stirling

It's been a good year with the Congregational Life Committee. Our committee is involved with activities that promote a social atmosphere within our church.

There have been some changes in 2017. We do not have as many members on our committee. We are currently looking for new members. Rebecca will be working on this in the new year.

"Y'All Come to Supper" has been very successful this year. We have about 30 to 40 people come each month. There is a freewill offering which covers the cost. Our meal used to be at 6:00 pm, but our committee decided to move the time to 5:00 pm. We enjoy having the children as well as the seniors come to this event.

We held the Car Rally in the spring and it went very well. There will be one again next year, with a pot luck to follow.

We will be having the School for Fun again in February. It will be for one week in which people will come during the evening to participate in different workshops. For example, we will be having cooking classes, and someone may show a slideshow of a trip. 2017's event went very well and was well attended. Our committee is looking forward to having it again in 2018.

We will have another bus trip in 2018. We had it in 2017 in the spring; the bus went to Windsor. There were only a few people who attended, but those who came really enjoyed it.

To all members of Congregational Life, a huge thank you for all your dedication and work. Our committee is looking forward to the coming events in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Godfrey, Co-Chair
Congregational Life Committee

4.4 Covenanter Church Committee

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

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. With an approved budget, the Covenanter Committee is looking to undertake capital projects in 2018 that include anode replacement on the church roof, structural refurbishing of foundation timbers, replacing both front and tower doors, replacing steps to both entrances as well as maintenance of the church cemetery (levelling grave sites and straightening headstones). Maintenance and repairs included a new French drain and updating the electrical service to code. Lawn care was provided by Greg Allen. The church organ is not presently working but hopefully will be in 2018. A rented keyboard was used for the summer services.

In 2017, we held 10 meetings. Meetings were typically held at 10:00 am, the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between OVUC and Lower Horton Hall.

Regular Summer Series services were held throughout July and August.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan is a special service that has special meaning to the Scottish and Irish settlers of the past and present and was hosted by Clan MacDonald in June.

A Wolfville High School reunion was held in September.

There were 560 signatures in the Covenanter Guest Book in 2017, 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. Tim McFarland. The sub-committee that worked with Rev. Tim 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.

In addition to our weekly summer services, there are currently two weddings booked for the summer of 2018 as well as the Kirkin' o' the Tartan and a private family service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Draper, Acting Chair
Covenanter Church Committee

4.5 Finance Committee

Members: Bruce Smith (Chair)
 Pat Foote (Secretary)
 Bill Simpson (Treasurer)
 Jennie Bustin
 Betty Curry
 Helen Hansford
 Cecil White

Ex-officio: Rev. Ivan Norton

Our committee has worked very hard again this year looking after the congregation's money and keeping in sight the goal of a balanced budget. We have been aided in this pursuit by our hard-working treasurer, Bill Simpson, looking after the day-to-day operations of the church. We have also been aided by the various committees of the church who have carried out their duties serving our church community, with an eye to controlling expenses.

One cautionary note is that our weekly offerings are down this year. A goal for next year certainly will be to have those givings increase. In lockstep with this would be to mount a campaign to encourage more of the congregation to adopt PAR as their means of giving.

When preparing the Budget for 2018, the committee continued to keep a balanced budget in mind and we consider this important as the next few years might be challenging ones, as we confirm our new home.

Joan White left the committee in the spring and Helen Hansford will be leaving in March. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank them for their dedication and guidance in serving our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Smith, Chair
Finance Committee

4.6 Ministry and Personnel Committee

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

Orchard Valley United Church is extremely blessed with wonderful, competent and dedicated staff. Their commitment to Orchard Valley United Church is essential to fulfilling the mission and work of our congregation:

- Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton share a full-time (and beyond) position of Interim Ministry. We will miss their leadership, wisdom and nurturing spirit when they embark on retirement (again) at the end of June 2018.
- Rev. Bill McLeod, Intentional Interim Ministry, who worked with our Transition Team, completed his mandate with us in September 2017. His guidance helped the team, and all of us, through the unsettling time of discussions, discernment and establishing direction for our future.
- Theresa Perrin, Office Administrator, keeps us on track with events, information and technology. Her willingness to provide support to everyone at her door, sending emails, or by phone (which happens all the time) is invaluable.
- Ken Hassell, Music Director, keeps the choir focused and challenged with terrific and spirit-focused music. Under his leadership, the choir inspires us each Sunday to join in and be joyful.
- Louis Lightfoot, Custodian, in his quiet, efficient and sometimes phantom way, keeps the building and grounds safe, beautiful and functional.....amazingly always available when needed.
- Dale Griffiths is our 9:00 am Sunday service pianist. Her dedication to the service gives great support to Ivan, Judy and the congregation every week.
- Cheryl Manzer, Meet Your Feet Nurse, with her vision and dedication to the needs in the community around us, keeps us focused on local outreach. The MYF project is a great success and Cheryl is now supported by our second MYF nurse, Denyse Nelson, at the Orchard Valley United Church site.

On behalf of the congregation, I say 'thank you' to each staff member for their particular role in the ministry of Orchard Valley United Church. When you have an opportunity, please thank them as well.

We regularly check in, formally, informally, and on request, with each staff person to support their efforts in meeting their role expectations and to ensure that we, as a congregation, are providing the support and coordination each staff member requires in order to carry out their responsibilities. We appreciate all comments, accolades and concerns we receive, which give us an opportunity to go lend significant support. Thank you to the congregation members for your trust in the confidential work that we do, to nurture and support all our staff as they guide and support the ministry and mission of Orchard Valley United Church.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many, many OVUC volunteers, especially those in leadership positions. So many people work tirelessly to carry out the work and mission of Orchard Valley United Church. Again, thank you to each and every one of you. As the Ministry and Personnel Committee, it is 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 members of congregation. We are available to volunteers (confidentially) who request clarification regarding roles, responsibilities and approaches to collaboration. Hopefully this is not required often, but helpful when requested.

My sincere thanks to the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee for their time, expertise and commitment: Nancy Handrigan, Carol Wooster and Ian Godfrey. It has been my pleasure to chair the committee for three years. Now it is time to pass on this role. Thank you for all your support and for the opportunity to serve Orchard Valley United Church in this way.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Sweatman, Chair
Ministry & Personnel Committee

4.7 Outreach Committee

Members: Susan Cater (Chair)
Sylvia Jacquard (Secretary)
Sheila Fisher
Cheryl Manzer
Kelly Messom
Helen Seymour
Sue Smith
Beth Spindler
Susanne Sweatman

The committee met monthly to report on the projects for which the Outreach Committee is responsible.

- **Benevolent Committee:** During the past year the Benevolent Committee was busy dealing with 68 calls for support. After investigating all requests, there were 44 people who qualified and were supported by our generous congregation. A total of \$4,698.63 was spent on things like heat, food and shelter. Our outreach to the communities supported by Orchard Valley is appreciated greatly by those we serve. This outreach is financially supported by our members and appears to be very important to the congregation. Our final budget for the year shows a surplus due to your generous contributions. We would like to thank you for this support of our work and on behalf of those we help. THANKS!
- **Christmas Hamper Program:** Orchard Valley United Church is part of three local Church Councils – Kentville, New Minas and Area Council of Churches (KNMACC), Wolfville and Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC), and Canning and Area Interchurch Council (CAICC). Each Council offers Christmas Hampers to families in need within its catchment area.

Through the generous donations by OVUC members, adherents and friends, we were able to provide support to the three Hamper programs as follows:

- Contributed \$700 towards CAICC's food hampers;
- Contributed \$700 towards for the purchase of pies and turkeys for WAICC hampers; and
- Provided grocery store gift cards to 41 families from the Kentville/New Minas area (as coordinated by the Salvation Army and KNMACC).

We would like to thank the congregation for its support. Donations to the OVUC Christmas Hamper Program, as of December 25, totalled \$4,489. Our total expenses were \$4,448, leaving a balance of roughly \$42, which was added to the Benevolent Fund. Recipients of the grocery store gift cards were very grateful for the outpouring of support from the church. We would also like to thank the volunteers who assisted in Hamper registration, delivered gift cards or volunteered for the Salvation Army "Toy Store".

- **Canucopia Food Bank Drives:** The Canucopia Food Bank Drives continue to be a great success. Again this year, Sobeys and New Minas Superstore very kindly let us use their parking lots to set up our Food Drive van. In the spring, Noggins provided us with their cube van for our drive, while in the fall, Toyota generously loaned us a van for our event. Through our spring and fall food drives, we were able to bring in a total of 1700 kg of food donations and \$2,160 in monetary contributions. All donations were divided between the three local food banks – Canning, Wolfville and Fundy (serving the Kentville and New Minas areas). The Outreach Committee would like to thank all the many volunteers who participate each year as it would not be possible without your support.
- **Glooscap Elementary School Breakfast Program:** We continue to help at the Breakfast program four times during the school year in rotation with other churches in the school's catchment area. We provide two volunteers per day for a week to make toast. The Outreach Committee would like to thank these people for getting up so early to enable our church to be a part of this worthwhile program.
- **"Meet Your Feet" Foot Care Clinic:** The Meet Your Feet program continues to be a significant outreach program of OVUC. We served approximately 67 clients during 2017 which was an average of 35 visits per month for a monthly expense of \$450. (February's clinic was cancelled due to weather conditions.) Our expenses include nursing care, foot care supplies and transportation of clients to and from the clinics.

At least two volunteers attend each clinic; a total of about 14 volunteers participate over the year. These ladies welcome and socialize with waiting clients, serve tea and snacks, and take notes for the nurses. We are grateful for their dedication and personal support to the program.

In June, we contracted a second Foot Care nurse, Denyse Nelson, to assist with the increased number of clients who attend the OVUC site. Our nurses assess, educate, treat and make referrals to doctors and other health professionals as needed. We are convinced that through this program many people are more able to be independent and more engaged in the community.

Clients appreciate this professional care and guidance in a comfortable welcoming environment. This is what they say:

- “I feel safer when walking.”
- “I like to chat with the other people and the volunteers.”
- “The snacks are good.”
- “[My] toe nails would tear off and hurt if I did not come to the clinic.”
- “Very ecumenical.”
- “Relieves pain.”
- “Living on old age pension, [I] would not be able to pay for service.”
- “The nurses are caring, personal and professional.”

We want to acknowledge the Mud Creek Rotary Club for their generous support of the Meet Your Feet program in May 2017. The Rotary Club presented OVUC with a cheque for \$8,000, which has sustained the program for several months. Thank you also to all members of the congregation who support the program financially or with supplies (e.g. cotton socks are always welcome!)

- **Open Arms Supper:** We are responsible for providing the Open Arms supper in months that have five Saturdays. This year, that meant providing a roast beef supper in April.
- **Highland View Manor Seniors’ Residence:** A new project this year was providing a social program for the residents of Highland View Manor seniors’ residence. A coffee party was held at the Manor to determine their needs and how we might meet them. It was decided that we would provide separate monthly programs for the men and the women. Members of the OVUC Men’s Group will go each month to play cards and darts with the men, while different speakers/programs will be provided for the women.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Jacquard, Secretary
Outreach Committee

4.8 Pastoral Care Committee

Members: Joy Waterbury (Chair)
Noreen MacGregor (Secretary)
Edna Roach (Card Secretary)
Vera Burke
Peter Dekker
Allyson Dunfee
George Dunfee
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie
Edie Lloyd
Betty MacDonald
Jean Millett

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ivan Norton

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 the church's, hospital, and institution visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited.

The 2017 Pastoral Care Committee members all fulfilled the requirements for the Duty to Care Program.

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 and attended the Council meetings. Bills for expenses were forwarded to Council for payment from the 2017 budget.

We paid Kings Point-To-Point Transport (KPPT) for members to be brought to church. We organized 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 was also provided for church families to attend church functions; committee members provided drives to church functions also.

Nursing Home worship 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, and emails were sent. Hospital visitations by committee members were made on an as-needed basis.

The *Journeying Through Grief* books (a set of four short books) were purchased for Committee members to share with people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Pastoral Care's two Sub-Committees were Prayer Shawls and Spirit Yoga. They added to the experiences of our caring community at Orchard Valley United Church.

People sought to experience the healing benefits and unique wisdom offered to us by both Christianity and the Yogic tradition through Spirit Chair Yoga. Monies collected from Spirit Chair Yoga were directed to be used for Pastoral Care.

Two Pastoral Care Committee members attended the Annapolis Valley Health “Spiritual Hospitality Workshop” on October 26th.

The OVUC Pastoral Care Committee hosted a presentation on Dementia and Relationship Education delivered by Mary MacPherson. This very informative session had 13 participants attending.

Pastoral Care also hosted a Longest Night Service on December 20th led by Peter and Vicky Dekker, Vera Burke, Jean Millett, Allyson and George Dunfee, and Joy Waterbury. Thank you to Ken Hassell and Thea Burton for providing their gift of music for the service.

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, Lois Tracy, Peter Dekker, Edie Lloyd, Vivian MacPhee, Edna Roach, Eleanor and Ned Chase, Linda Draper, Linda Swindells, Peggy Jones, Anne Clattenburg, Helen Hansford, Fran Turner, Betty Rockwell, Margaret Curry, George and Allyson Dunfee, and Gloria Hick.

We wish to thank those Church members who donated cards, stamps, time and money for our OVUC Pastoral Care work throughout 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Waterbury, Chair
Pastoral Care Committee

4.9 Property Committee

Members: Norma Mailman (Chair)
 Helen Seymour (Secretary)
 Richard Clattenburg
 Dave Tracy (Oct-Dec)
 Bruce Tymchuk

Ex-officio: Rev Ivan Norton

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

This Committee held four members throughout the year, with Dave Tracy joining us in October and Rev Norton attending some meetings.

We were responsible for:

- Submitting an expenditure budget to the Finance Committee
- Ensuring continual upkeep and maintenance of the sanctuary/hall
- Providing grounds and storage facilities
- Authorizing Facility Usage Agreements when required
- Arranging security
- Submitting reports and attending Council meetings
- Maintaining requirements under the Fire & Evacuation regulations
- Regulating property contents (removal, changes, additions)
- Renewing the rental of storage facilities (Billtown & container at the rear) and arranging for some purchases
- In consultation with M&P, revising and renewing a contract for Louis Lightfoot
- Overseeing duties of cleaning and security during the custodian's vacation

In addition, we also:

- Coordinated inspections on the fire extinguishers and Valley Alarms security system
- Purchased:
 - New signage for Cornwallis Avenue
 - Tracks and lettering for property entry signage
 - A coffee maker
 - Step railings for the chancel (purchased and installed)
 - A roof rake
 - A hose caddy
 - An independent battery back-up (UPS) for the office (purchased and installed)
- Arranged for the removal/sale of excess items
- Had the septic system pumped
- Had a "pick" in the office window repaired
- Cleaned and graded the yard (performed by a volunteer)
- Arranged for lighting in the east front to be replaced by NS Power (rental)

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

Yearly – Fire Drill

1-3-year plan

extinguishers checked/replaced
purchase of storage container
new computer system
office repainting
vacuum cleaner
lawn mower

5-year plan

heat pumps
carpet replacement
air vents re-positioned
monument refacing
roofing replacement

10-year plan

septic clean-out
yard paving
steeple lighting
permanent security
light at front

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Mailman, Chair
Property Committee

4.10 Stewardship Committee

Members: Ruth-Anne Stirling (Chair)
Judy Gilmour (Acting Chair)
Vicky Austin (Secretary)
Lisa Cormier
Cheryl Manzer
Elaine Maynard-Lloyd (since Nov)
Linda Swindells
Sandra Tremblett

Ex-officio: Judy Norton

The Committee thanks Heather Hennigar for her years of service to this committee as Co-Chair and Chair.

Meetings of the OVUC Stewardship Committee are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

As Acting Chair of the OVUC Stewardship Committee, I am pleased to present the following report on the 2017 activities of the Committee:

- Soup Lunches in January–December 2017 raised \$4,772 before expenses. The February Luncheon had to be cancelled due to illnesses and vacation.
- Talent and Skill Pledge sheet; Stewardship pledge sheet was distributed to OVUC members;
- An Evening of Comedy and Music welcomed Susan Carter and Jon Hemingway on October 21; the event raised \$620, which was split 50-50 between the performers and the Committee.
- The Memorial Giving Tree raised a total of \$1,760.

A major matter of discussion throughout one of the meetings was led by Judy Norton: the mandate of the Stewardship Committee. Gary Dunfield, Chair of Council, met with us as well on a separate occasion on the same subject. Work on this subject will continue into 2018.

The Committee is grateful to the OVUC congregation for its continued support of stewardship initiatives and for the ever-present support of Judy Norton.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Gilmour, Acting Chair
Stewardship Committee

4.11 Worship Committee

Members: Cynthia Bruce (Chair)
Carolyn Cameron (Secretary)
Marion Buchan
Thea Burton (until Sept)
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 Church and Senior Worship services
- Approved requests for Baptism, Marriage and Membership
- Arranged services for Lent and Easter
- Scheduled Christmas Services for OVUC 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

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

- To Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton for providing dedicated spiritual leadership;
- To the choir for providing inspirational anthems, and to those who have offered special music throughout the year; and
- To 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 OVUC Men's Group met for a Breakfast meeting on the first Sunday of every month at the Circle K Restaurant. On average there were 12 men who attended.

The Men's Group assisted with the Soup Luncheons at the church the first Tuesday of each month. We helped with the twice-yearly Canucopia Food Drive. We provided assistance to the Property Committee with projects at the Church. The Men's Group were responsible for erecting the Church Christmas Trees and also helped with the decorating.

The Men's Group run the Fundscrip and Guys Cans Church fundraising projects. In 2017 we donated \$3,000 to the Church from the two fundraising campaigns. Our current assets held at Valley Credit Union are as follows: \$6,512.32. Rebate revenue from Fundscrip was \$3,255.50. The Guys Cans Revenue was: \$1,861.31 for a total of \$5,116.81. Expenses were.: Contribution to Church: \$3,000. Guys Cans expenses: \$65. Fundscrip Shipping Costs: \$232.21. Total Expenses: \$3,297.21. Net Income: \$1,819.60.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Seymour, Chair
OVUC Men's Group

5.2 Orchard Valley UCW (OV-UCW)

The Orchard Valley United Church Women (OV-UCW) follow their purpose, to unite the 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.

Members meet on the third Monday of the month at 2:00 pm at the Church from September through June. The meetings are opened with meaningful devotions with topics appropriate for the season, led by the members. Members look for ways they may be of "service" and are always ready to assist wherever they are able. The group's regular fundraising events include a Bring and Buy sale and the Christmas Coffee Party. Part of our fundraising has been for the Mission & Service fund. We have been advised that since 1962, the UCW has contributed over \$134,497,151 for Mission & Service. The success of the Mission & Service is largely due to this kind of support from the grassroots of the United Church of Canada. New UCW members are always welcome.

Programs included:

- Guest Speaker, Sheila McCurdy – Spoke about her Spain Pilgrimage.
- Guest speaker, Michelle Parker, Kings County Safety Coordinator, spoke on behalf of the Senior Safety Society.

- Guest Speaker, Helen Seymour – Black Heritage Month – Viola Desmond – information and discussion session.
- Gloria Hick – Mona Parsons, information and discussion session.
- Jean Millett – Valley Foodgrains Bank Project, information session.
- Bring & Buy Auction – Fundraiser.
- Child Poverty Dolls – The “Bread Not Stones” initiative of the United Church of Canada. “When a child asks for bread, who of us would give him a stone?” Matthew 7:9. This doll is a symbol of our initiative to eliminate child poverty in Canada. These dolls, and communication with our government, are all part of our Canada-wide campaign, to raise awareness that hundreds of thousands of children in our country live in poverty. OV-UCW women have made twelve dolls to help raise the awareness of child poverty in our area.
- Chrysalis House is an ongoing project for the OV-UCW, which also involves the congregation, through donations for the women and children who are staying at the home. Donations collected have been delivered twice this year. The recipients have been very grateful for your gifts. A list of items which are needed is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your help with this project.
- Keeping in Touch Newsletters – Distributed to members.
- 2018 United Church Calendars – 30 calendars were purchased by the congregation.
- OVUC Christmas Newsletter. An article on Chrysalis House was featured.

Events:

- UCW World Day of Prayer Service – Hosted by the Kings Presbyterian Church on March 3, 2017. The service was written this year by the ladies of the Philippines. Theme: “Am I being Unfair to You?”. Six churches took part in this ecumenical service. OV-UCW members attended and took part in the service.
- Valley Presbyterial UCW Spring Rally – Hosted by the Aylesford Pastoral Charge, May 17, 2017. Theme: Celebrate Canada – 150-year anniversary. 106 attended. Eleven OVUC women were remembered at the Memorial Service. Fellowship enjoyed.
- June Luncheon, June 12, 2017 at Applewoods Restaurant. Guests – Wolfville UCW Unit and Rev Ivan and Judy Norton. 23 attended. Lunch and fellowship enjoyed.
- UCW afternoon at Berwick Camp. Six members attended. Program – information on the conference in celebration of our 55th anniversary. Fellowship enjoyed at the Cookie Cottage.
- Christmas Lunch – 9 members and Rev. Ivan & Judy Norton joined the Wolfville UCW Unit at the Old Orchard Inn for an enjoyable lunch and time of fellowship.
- Christmas Coffee Party and Bake and Craft Sale, December 9, 2017 at OVUC – Good attendance. Thank you to the congregation for their assistance in making this happen. Funds raised – \$1,156.20.

- The Valley Presbyterial UCW Spring Rally will be held at Orchard Valley United Church on May 9, 2018, hosted by the Orchard Valley and Wolfville UCW Units.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett, President

**ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
Annual Financial Report
2017**

Revenue	
Collections	\$131.35
Projects	1,231.90
Donations	130.00
Interest	0.28

Total Revenue	1,493.53

Expenditure	NIL

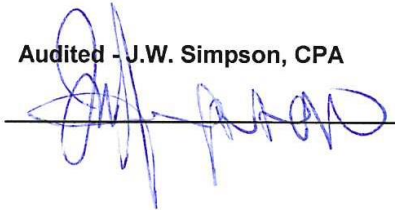
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure	\$1,493.53
	=====

**ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
CASH RECONCILIATION
2017**

Bank Balance - January 1, 2017	\$412.57
Add: Revenue as per Financial Report - above	1,493.53

	\$1,906.10
	=====

Audited - J.W. Simpson, CPA



5.3 Wolfville UCW (UCW-W)

Executive: Jane Hynes, President
Marion McKinley, Vice President
Evangeline (Vangé) Leslie, Secretary
Jan Porter, Treasurer
Hughanne Hennigar, Correspondence/Cards
Ann Booth, Phone

We held 10 meetings, with 9 being the average attendance.

The purpose of the organization is:

To unite all 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 in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Highlights:

- January: In January, we began organizing for the World Day of Prayer and a donation was made to the Valley Regional Hospital (Festival of Lights). A Thinking of You card and fruit basket were delivered to Andy Pitter.
- February: A memorial donation was made to the cancer society in honour of Tara Campbell, and a Sympathy card to Jean and Neil Campbell. A donation was made to The Portal, an organization helping youth and families in Kings County. World Day of Prayer meetings were held.
- March: We hosted the World Day of Prayer service at the St. John's Anglican Church and the offerings realized were \$309. We hosted a sing-a-long at the Wolfville Nursing Home on St. Patrick's Day.
- April: We confirmed our attendance for the UCW Rally.
- May: Members attended the Rally in Aylesford and a good time was had by all. We led the services at the Elms and the Wolfville Nursing Home in Wolfville.
- June: We attended Applewoods Restaurant with the OV-UCW for lunch.
- September: Members attended the funeral of Helen Buckler who was a long-time secretary of the UCW. A memorial donation was made to the University Women in her honour. A Sympathy card was sent to her son, Grant. A donation was made to VRH Mammography.
- October: A birthday card was sent to Jean Campbell.
- November: Evangeline Leslie chaired the meeting in Jane Hynes' absence. The unit has been invited to co-host the 2018 UCW Rally to be held at Orchard Valley United Church. This was agreed upon by all. A donation was made to Hadassahouse, an organization which helps women with addictions.

December: We held our lunch at Old Orchard Inn and were joined by the New Minas unit. Good fellowship was had by all. Donations were made to the WAICC Christmas Hamper Program. To celebrate UCW's 55 years, a donation was made to the M&S fund. Also, boxes for Brunswick St. Mission were placed and taken to the Mission, thanks to Ann Booth and Andy Pitter.

Programs were led by: Mary Mercer, Evangeline Leslie, Hughanne Hennigar, Lynn McLelland, Jane Hynes and Ann Booth.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Hynes, President
Wolfville Unit of UCW

**Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge
UCW Wolfville Unit
Annual Financial Report
2017**

Opening Balance – January 1, 2017		\$ 363.84
Revenue:		
Donations from members	\$ 414.70	
Total Revenue		\$ 778.84
Expenditures:		
Donations to various organizations:	\$ 430.00	
Bank cheques	59.87	
World Day of Prayer service	60.00	
Total Expenditures		<u>(\$ 549.87)</u>
Closing Balance – December 31, 2017		<u>\$ 228.67</u>

Submitted by

Jan Porter, Treasurer
UCW Wolfville Unit

5.4 Friday Women's Breakfast Group

The Friday Morning Women's Breakfast Group is a very well-attended meal at the church held each Friday morning at 8:00 am. Approximately 20–25 ladies from the church and surrounding area attend.

The main focus of our group is fellowship and support. We also support the church and community. There is no cost for breakfast, however a freewill offering is collected each week.

We have been asked to supply food and service to several other groups/functions. The bulk of the proceeds from this and the freewill collection is put mainly toward the Benevolent Fund of OVUC. As well this year, we have made a donation to the Foodgrains Bank, community fire victims, and church staff gifts.

Our Christmas breakfast was once again opened to all and a good many attended. We were pleased to have Rachael McLean and her daughter, Myah, sing a lovely duet. The Ladies also entertained with their version of The Twelve Pains (Joys) of Christmas. Cheryl Manzer and Beth Pattillo prepared the delicious meal.

We invite any lady in the church to attend the weekly breakfast!!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hennigar
Co-leader

(See financial statement on the following page)

OVUC Womens Breakfast Group
Financial Statements for year ending December 31, 2017

Income Statement Jan 1, 2017 to Dec 31,2017

Revenue

Breakfast Donations	3,093.80
Catering and Fundraising	200.00
Programming	-
TOTAL Revenue	<u>3,293.80</u>

Expenses

Bank Fees	24.00
Benevolent Fund	1,550.00
Gifts	820.00
Youth Group	-
Progammng and Retreat Expense	-
Supplies-Food and other	912.80
TOTAL Expenses	<u>3,306.80</u>

Net Income	<u>- 13.00</u>
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Net Worth as at Dec 31, 2016

Balance forward -Dec 31,2016	55.99
Income 2016	3,293.80
Expenses 2016	<u>- 3,306.80</u>
Closing Balance -Dec 31,2017	<u>42.99</u>

Submitted By

Jennie Bustin

Heather Hennigar

5.5 Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl group met once a month throughout the year, except December, under the leadership of Jean Millett and Helen Seymour. The average attendance was five. Meetings were held at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. There were a total of 62 Prayer Shawls or Prayer Squares given out this year. Of these:

- 12 were given to announce a Baptism, birth or other celebration;
- 30 were given as an expression of caring to those who were ill, recovering from surgery or injured; and
- 20 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's biggest responsibility is the Wolfville Area Food Bank, but the Council also helps with school supplies, local school breakfast programs, emergency/special relief requests, Christmas hampers and other community projects. The Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic and United churches take turns providing mid-week worship services at the Elms and Wolfville Nursing Home. WAICC is no longer officially responsible for the Syrian families they helped sponsor: the remaining money raised for the families was transferred to Wolfville Baptist to then be given to the families as needed and in amounts that won't be claimed by the government.

The Week of Prayer worship was at St. Francis Roman Catholic Church followed by a potluck supper. WAICC held a vigil in response to the January attack at a Quebec mosque, and a soup and discussion event with local community leaders in response to current affairs in general. A Lenten study focused on conflict management led by Susan Barthos. On Good Friday, WAICC had its annual walk-with-the-cross and ecumenical worship, the latter this year at Manning Chapel. At WAICC's annual general meeting, Dr. William Brackney spoke on the Protestant Reformation.

WAICC collectively or individually took part in many celebrations during the year:

- Diana Shelley received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Governor General of Canada;
- Wolfville Baptist pastor Rev. Dr. Barry Morrison retired;
- Rev. Russell Elliot turned 100 with a worship and reception at St John's Anglican, Port Williams, in July;
- In August, a "Quiet Garden" was designated at Kent Lodge on Main Street in Wolfville;
- L'Arche had their grand opening of their new building in September;

- Port Williams United Baptist turned 150;
- St John's Anglican, Wolfville, turned 200;
- Wolfville Baptist hired a Christian education and community outreach minister; and
- Port Williams United Baptist hired a new senior minister.

Many thanks to everyone who supported WAICC's activities this past year!

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Pitter
OVUC Representative

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

The Kentville, New Minas and Area Council of Churches is made up of sixteen churches in the area. Meetings are held every two months, September to May, circulating between the various churches.

Ecumenical Worship:

- January 29, 2017 – Christian Unity Service. Hosted by St. James Anglican Church. Theme – “Breaking Bread, Coming Together”. Well attended. Soup provided by Rosie's and King's Arms. No offering.
- April 14, 2017 – Good Friday Service. Hosted by Bethany Memorial Baptist Church. Was a traditional Tenebrae service. Well attended. Donations – \$ 556.55.
- June 25, 2017 – Baccalaureate Service. Hosted by Kings Presbyterian Church. Approximately 240 people attended. Theme – “Blessing of the Graduate” followed by a barbecue. Donations went to NKEC Breakfast Program.
- November 26, 2017 – Advent Service. Hosted by New Minas Baptist Church. Theme – “A Night of Hope”. All 16 churches participated in the service. All donations went to the Fundy Inter-church Food Bank.

Projects:

- **Valley Foodgrains Bank Project** – They had a very busy and successful year through the sales of blueberries and pumpkins. New this year was the “Grow Hope Project” where individuals could sponsor an acre of corn for \$300. Certain fields in the Truro area were set aside to grow corn and then harvested for \$750 an acre. The government would match for every sponsored acre of corn \$3000 that would be contributed to Global Food Aid in Africa. 19 acres of corn were sponsored in our Council of Churches.
- **Fundy Inter-church Food Bank** – This year the Fundy Inter-church Food Bank dispersed 76,000 kg of food to 6,274 individuals, 28 % of whom were children. Total household visits were down 6.3% but there was an increase of clients returning more than six visits. Each individual received 12.1 kg of food, an increase over last year. The Food Bank is still in need of volunteers to serve in more responsible roles. The Food

Bank is well supplied at present, thanks to the ongoing support of food and donations from the surrounding community (individuals, churches, organizations, etc.).

- **Christmas Hamper Program** – The Salvation Army heads this program. Registration started in mid October and continued to early December. Applications were than coordinated through their computer system. Application names were distributed to churches taking part in the program where the gift cards or food hampers were delivered to the applicants or delivery pick-up location. Any applicant who had children went to the Salvation Army at a later date to pick up a toy from the “Toy Store”; toys were bought by the Salvation Army. In 2017, 11 churches from the Council of Churches participated in the Christmas Hamper Program. 493 clients received a hamper or gift cards this year.
- **Christmas Kettle Program** – The Salvation Army also ran this program from November 23 to December 23, 2017 daily except for Sunday. Their goal this year was \$147,000. Part of this money went towards buying toys for the “Toy Store” for the children.
- **Good Neighbour Energy Home Heating Program** – The funds for this program are provided by NS Power and administrated through the Salvation Army. The program went from January 15, 2017 to April 30, 2017 for those individuals who qualified for financial assistance with their heating. An applicant could receive up to \$400 every two years. In 2017, 113 were approved out of 128 applications.
- **Vacation Bible School** – Four churches participated: New Minas Baptist Church, Kentville United Baptist Church, Salvation Army, and Kings Presbyterian Church. Very well attended.

Financial Report:

On January 10, 2017 funds were dispersed - \$300 to Canadian Foodgrains Bank, \$300 to Open Arms, and \$300 to Chrysalis House. On May 9, 2017, \$300 went to the Bacculaureate Service. As of November 14, 2017, there was a balance of \$288.56.

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Smith
OVUC Representative for Council of Churches

5.8 Valley Foodgrains Bank Project

The Valley Foodgrains Bank Project (VFGBP) is an ecumenical group made up of eight member churches from the area, including the United, Baptist and Anglican Churches. The Presbyterian Church will occasionally take part in a project as well. The VFGBP is part of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), founded in 1983. The CFGB is a partnership of 15 member churches and church agencies, representing 30 denominations in Canada, of which the United Church of Canada is a member, working together to end global hunger. Donations are used by members to support programs that: meet immediate food needs; improve agriculture and livelihoods for small scale farmers; improve nutrition, especially for women and children; and influence

national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger. In 2016-17, CFGB provided over \$43 million of food and other assistance for over a million people in 40 countries through the membership. Thank you for actively helping in “A Christian Response to Hunger”, by assisting people in developing countries with projects to improve their living conditions and way of life, through the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Your donations are matched 4:1 by the Government of Canada.

Local projects during the past year:

- Cultivated blueberries from Blueberry Acres were brought in for February with 35 boxes sold by four churches. In November, 56 boxes were sold by six churches. The blueberries were sold for \$20 per 5 lb. box. 91 boxes of blueberries were sold with a profit of \$5 per box making \$455, which when matched by the government would mean \$2,275 toward a Christian response to hunger.
- The Fall Pumpkin sale in October saw beautiful pumpkins move quickly to homes in our communities. Three churches took part in this project. Kentville United Baptist had pumpkins donated and Bethany Baptist and Orchard Valley United purchased from Noggins Corner Farm Market at a reduced price. 200 pumpkins were sold for a profit of \$968.60. When matched by the government, \$4,843 would be realized for the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.
- New this year was the “Grow Hope Project” to contribute to the Global Food Aid in Africa. Specific areas named were South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Nigeria. Anne Cameron and Jean Millett attended the Church Service and picnic in Debert where a corn field of 10 acres was planted. This land is part of the Masstown Market property. In previous years, it has been their corn maze and has been donated for this project. Other corn crops were planted in Milford, Brookfield and Bible Hill. A total of 100 acres of corn were planted in these areas. Farmers donated their time and land. Individuals could sponsor an acre of corn for \$300. This was to help cover the cost of planting and growing. It was expected to raise \$750 per acre when sold. When matched by the government, \$3,000 would be contributed to Food Aid. 800 million people worldwide are hungry. 70% are farmers. Many farmers are women. Nova Scotia farmers “Grow Hope” by growing and selling crops to help end global hunger. In our area, 19 acres of corn were sponsored:
 - VFGBP – 2 acres;
 - Valley Presbytery – 1 acre; and
 - Orchard Valley United Church – 16 acres, which included an acre donated by the ecumenical Women's Friday Morning Breakfast Group.

Money raised by the congregation was matched by the Orchard Valley United Church Council totaling \$4,880. Thank you so much for your generosity and care for those in need. Thank you to Jane McDonald for the “corn cobs” which we could watch being colored in as the donations grew.

- Another CFGB project this year was the Baptist Mission catalogue. It was “Buy a Cow in Canada for \$500”. The calf was sold; the money went to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Kentville United Baptist Church had a bottle drive fundraiser to buy a cow.

After expenses, a total of \$1,600 was donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in 2017 from funds raised by the blueberry and pumpkin projects. New members are always welcome. Please ask a member for further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett, Secretary–Treasurer
Valley Foodgrains Bank Project

5.9 Valley Presbytery Report

During 2017, your presbytery reps continued to faithfully attend the regularly scheduled meetings, held on the third Tuesday of the month. The congregational reps are Joanne Olive, Maxine Phinney and Gail Gordon, along with Rev. Ivan and Judy Norton. We are represented on the following committees: Mission in Canada; Education and Students; Nominations; Pastoral Oversight; and Stewardship. Gail Gordon and Joanne Olive also serve on the executive who meet when the full court does not or when deemed necessary.

Throughout the year, there were several Orders of the Day. In June, there was an excellent presentation by Brenda Leenders and Ian McHattie, Nova Scotia Coordinators for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. They were thankful and appreciated the response of OVUC to this endeavor and calculated that our contribution would translate into feeding three families for a year.

In September the regular monthly meeting was hosted by Orchard Valley. As orders of the day, three guests were welcomed and gave very informative presentations. The Rev. Bill MacLeod presented his final report on his intentional interim ministry at Orchard Valley. The Rev. Richard Bowley, President of Maritime Conference, talked about Faith and led us in an exploration and sharing session on what might be integral to our faith. The Rev. Dr. Debra Orton, Co-ordinating Chaplain at the Valley Regional Hospital (VRH), presented a report on the Spiritual Care Program at the VRH.

David Hewitt, D.M., Executive Secretary of Maritime Conference, was present on two separate occasions as the order of the day and answered many questions relating to the status of Sherbrooke Camp as a corporate ministry, changes in office space at General council, and remits. At the November meeting, he spoke on remit implementation and the work of the Boundaries Commission. At this meeting, Valley Presbytery voted on Remit 6, One Order of Ministry, and the result was NO. As with all matters related to remits, any advice or direction is contingent on GC43 enacting the remits in July, 2018.

A workshop, “Toward a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel”, was sponsored by the Church in Action Committee held at the Berwick United Church on October 19. Speakers were from the Church in Action Committee, Valley Presbytery, a Maritime Conference Representative and a Representative from the United Church General Council.

Valley Presbytery presided at three Covenanting Services:

- February 21, for The Rev. Gale MacDonald and the Kingston Pastoral Charge;
- October 5, The Rev. David Hann and the Windsor United Church; and
- October 29, for The Rev. Don MacPherson and the William Black Pastoral Charge.

Rev. Judith Perry is serving half time at the Walton Pastoral Charge.

Joanne Olive attended the meeting of Maritime Conference in May and once again the reader is referred to the digest of actions found on the Maritime Conference Website. Brandan Davidson represented Orchard Valley at Youth Forum. Seek Other Cs was the theme of the Conference Annual Meeting. Curiosity, cultivate, congregation, conversation, community were just a few of the 'Cs' that were explored. The theme speaker was The Rev. John Pentland. He is the author of [Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith](#). Attending Maritime Conference gives one the opportunity to experience the wider church and to be reminded that we are part of a great community of faith.

Valley Presbytery continues to work diligently to fulfill their responsibilities as we await the outcomes of the next General Council in July 2018 and what the future holds for us as congregations of the United Church of Canada.

It has been my pleasure to represent Orchard Valley at the Presbytery level. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet others throughout the Valley and within Maritime Conference.

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 (deceased 2017)
- Debbie Selig
- Joan Tracey

I am pleased to report to the congregation on behalf of the OVUC Board of Trustees.

The year began with membership: Gary Dunfield, Nancy Handrigan, Ned Chase, Debbie Selig, Jennie Bustin, Joan Tracey, Bryan Draper, Don Rockwell, John Cochrane, Ian Godfrey and Harvey Gilmour.

We lost Don Rockwell mid-year and wish to take this opportunity to record profound thanks for the contributions he made to the work of the Trustees and to the Church community at large. He is missed.

At the conclusion of 2017, both Jennie Bustin and Joan Tracey expressed their individual wish to step down after each serving five years (or since the beginning) as a Trustee. Both offered

invaluable advice, participated in most every meeting, and displayed the type of independent, experienced, and committed attitude that is exemplary and can be attributed to all of the Trustees. We give them our deepest thanks and gratitude.

Nancy Handrigan served as Secretary of the Trustees and Gary Dunfield as Trustees' Treasurer. These two individuals serve the Church in many, many ways and deserve special thanks.

Thanks are to be recorded for the able assistance of Ivan and Judy Norton, both with advice at every turn as well as their loyal attendance at Trustee and sub-committee meetings.

The life of Church Trustees mirrors the rest of life: hectic times, busy times, slower times. After early years of multiple meetings, sometimes two or three a week, the work of the Trustees was routine in 2017.

The Trustees operated in 2017 through a single formal meeting held February 27 and through a number of email "conference calls." The Trustees oversaw the operations of two "sub-committees" being the Investment Committee (comprised of Gary Dunfield, Harvey Gilmour, Ned Chase and Jen Bustin with Peter Miller as professional) and the Covenanter Committee with John Cochrane serving as Trustee representative. Both sub-committees had busy and productive meetings throughout the year.

It is an honour and pleasure to serve Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge as a Trustee. Thank you to the congregation for allowing us to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Gilmour, Chair

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**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES,
MARCH 5, 2017**

Orchard Valley United Church Annual Congregational Meeting

March 5, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND CONSTITUTION:** by Rev. Ivan Norton

Due to the fact that Valerie Mosher was unavailable due to illness, an election was held to fill the position of Secretary for the meeting. Jane McDonald moved Sylvia Jacquard be Secretary. It was seconded by Betty Curry.

Sylvia agreed to let her name stand and the congregation voted in favour so she served as Secretary for the meeting.

Gary Dunfield served 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: Harvey Gilmour **Seconded:** Cecil White **CARRIED**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Item 7 was removed as there were no minutes to be approved from congregational meetings held in 2016.

A Memorial moment was added.

MOTION: Approval of agenda with amendments.

Moved: Nancy Handrigan **Seconded:** John Foote **CARRIED**

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

MOTION: That the minutes be approved as circulated.

Moved: Carol Wooster **Seconded:** Pat Foote **CARRIED**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – none

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MOTION: To adopt Committee Reports as circulated.

Moved: Jane McDonald **Seconded:** Ken Hassell **CARRIED**

8. **OTHER GROUPS**

MOTION: To adopt the Finance Report for 2016 as circulated.

Moved: Ian Godfrey

Seconded: Jean Millett

CARRIED

9. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The reports were presented by Bill Simpson based on documents were prepared for OVPC by Kelly Coombs, Charter Accountant, Inc. Bill highlighted sections of the report that could be of special interest. This was the first year that we didn't need to draw funds from the Trustees above what was already budgeted.

MOTION: To approve Financial Report as circulated.

Moved: Bill Simpson

Seconded: Norma Mailman

CARRIED

10. **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Presentation by Bill Simpson.

MOTION: To approve the budget for 2017 as circulated with the provision that we will probably have to make changes when a new minister is hired.

Moved: Bill Simpson

Seconded: Joan Tracey

Questions/Discussion:

- i. Presbytery budget – that will be changed.
- ii. How to project salaries? Budgeted for 1 person for 3 months. Congregation will just have to vote to change the budget.
- iii. The actual deficit was \$23,000; in 2016 the deficit was \$13,000.
- iv. Storage: Barn in Billtown, and storage container in the back.
- v. Asked for a breakdown in salaries: 3 people got an increase of 1.1% over last year.
- vi. Found budget and financial report was easier to understand

CARRIED

Jane McDonald chaired the meeting while Gary Dunfield presented the Trustees Financial Reports.

11. **TRUSTEES' FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The reports were presented by Gary Dunfield based on documents prepared by Kelly Coombs.

MOTION: To approve Trustees Financial Report as circulated.

Moved: Gary Dunfield

Seconded: Peter Oleskevich

CARRIED

Trustees' funds and donations were up substantially from the previous year, mostly because the markets were up. The loss in assets reflected that we sold the building for less than it was valued for.

Questions/Discussion:

- i. Chipman Fund: The money is held by the TD Bank and we receive funds four times per year. We invest our money with ScotiaMcLeod and the Trustees meet with Peter Miller (our representative) a couple of times per year. He is to follow the guidelines of the Trustees that have been approved by Council: What can be done, breakdown, etc. He advises but the Trustees Investment Committee makes the choices. Our guidelines re ethical investments are similar to those of the General Council of the United Church of Canada.

MOTION: To retain Kelly Coombs to do the review for next year.

Moved: Gary Dunfield

Seconded: Bill Simpson

CARRIED

The floor was turned back to Gary Dunfield. Kelly charged the same amount for each review and this cost was the same as last year.

12. NOMINATING REPORT

Presentation of Nominating Report by Jane McDonald.

MOTION: To approve the Nominating Report as amended (attached)

Moved: Jane McDonald

Seconded: Norma Mailman

CARRIED

Gary asked Jane to attend Council for continuity. The report will be sent out by email and available at the office. Gary thanked Jane for her work as Chair and others who are working on committees.

- 13. TRANSITION TEAM** – Peter Oleskevich reported that the team is almost finished their work and that the work of the JNAC Committee is beginning. It is now time for the Facilities Committee to begin their work. He thanked everyone who served on the committee. Dorothy Robbins stood to congratulate and thank the committee for their work.

- 14. CLERGY'S REPORT** – Volunteers are needed for the WAICC and CAICC committees. These are exciting times with the work of the transition team done, and that of the JNAC and Facility Committee starting.

- 15. MEMORIALS:** They are listed as part of the Annual Report and were remembered with prayer by Rev. Norton.

- 16. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:** As seen in the Annual Report.

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. Appointment of members to the Facilities Study committee: The Transition Team recommended a committee of seven people. The following offered to serve: Val Mosher, Dave Murphy, Cheryl Manzer, Jane McDonald, Bruce Tymchuk, one member of the Transition team to have one vote (Peter Oleskevich/Thea Burton), Trustees have asked for one representative (Gary Dunfield/Harvey Gilmour). Ken Hassell and minister/new minister in an advisory capacity (because they are employees).

MOTION: To approve the appointment of the above-named people to serve on the Facilities Study committee.

Moved: Peter Dekker **Seconded:** Carol Wooster **CARRIED**

- ii. Publish the name of the committee members in the bulletin.

18. **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Moved: Jane McDonald **Seconded:** Cecil White **CARRIED**

19. **BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH:** by Judy Norton

Roll of the Annual Congregational Meeting March 5, 2017

Attendance = 81

Cynthia Bruce	Frank Maxwell
Vera Bruce	Judy Maxwell
Marion Buchan	Elaine Maynard-Lloyd (A)
Hilda Burton	Jane McDonald
Anne Clattenburg	Mary Mercer
Richard Clattenburg	Jean Millett
Betty Curry	Shelley Moore
Margaret Curry	David Murphy
Peter Dekker	Donna Murphy
Carol Dewar	Ivan L. Norton (staff)
Jim Dewar	Judy Norton
Bryan Draper	Peter Oleskevich
Linda L. Draper	Lola Pineo
Allyson Dunfee	Richard Pineo
George Dunfee	Andrea Purvis
Gary Dunfield	Edna Roach
John Foote	Dorothy Robbins
Linda Foote	Betty Rockwell
Pat Foote	Debbie Selig
Helen Gill	Helen Seymour
Harvey Gilmour	Bill Simpson
Judy Gilmour	Joan Simpson
Ian Godfrey	Bruce Smith
Pat Godfrey	Peggy Smith
Rebecca Godfrey	Sue Smith
Gail Gordon	Beth Spindler
Nancy Handrigan	Susanne Sweatman
Helen Hansford	Linda Swindells
Ken Hassell	Meg J. Townsend
Heather Hennigar	Joan Tracey
Cheryl Hill	David Tracy
Sylvia Jacquard	Lois Tracy
Peggy Jones	Bruce Tymchuk
Hazel Leiper	Cecil White
Mell Leiper	Joan White
Evangeline Leslie	Angela Whiteway
Noreen MacGregor	Gord Whiteway
Elizabeth MacMillan	Marilyn Whiteway
Vivian MacPhee	Carol Wooster
Norma Mailman	Cay Wynn
Cheryl Manzer	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

To be provided during the Annual Congregational Meeting

BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Insert OVUC Budget here

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Budget 2018 Covenanter Church Committee

Income	2018 Budget
Fundraisers:	
• CD's-\$50, Books-\$50, Cards \$10	110
• Cookbooks	700
Covenanter Envelopes & Loose Offerings	3700
Kirkin' O Tartan Offerings	200
Old box offerings and donations	240
Other donations	100
Memorials	0
Christmas Eve Service	800
	6000

Expenditures	2018 Budget
Custodian Honoraria	400
Custodian -Wedding	200
Lawn Care	530
Graveyard Maintenance	200
Heating & Electricity	376
Building Repair & Maintenance	300
Portable Toilet Rental	700
Bank Charges	24
Sewer Frontage Tax	150
Miscellaneous	250
Summer Ministry Personnel	1200
Summer Organists	750
Extra Anniversary Expenses	200
Petty Cash	100
Other Outreach and/or	620
5 yr plan project	0
	6000

**Covenanter Church Committee
Long Term (Large Expense) Plan
2014-2019**

2018 Projects Budget up to \$10,000

Roof: Repair or replace the ridge board
 Replace first two rows of shingles front and back with raised shingles
 Place anodes on roof to deter mold growth
 Repair cupola and replace shingles

Church doors: Remove doors to both entrances and close openings with plywood.
 Use doors as models for replacement doors
 Presently quotes are being sought from persons with restoration experience
 The doors must be in place by June 1, 2018

All projects require quotes

Source of Revenue for These Projects

Once quotes are received, we will apply for grants from the Department of Community, Culture and Heritage, Nova Scotia. We can receive 50% of the cost of approved projects.

The balance of the cost would be paid from the Enid Kelly Memorial Covenanter Fund.

Insert financials