

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
ST. DAVIDS, ONTARIO
2023



St. Davids-Queenston United Church
ANNUAL REPORTS
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St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2023

St. Davids-Queenston United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 26, 2023
Immediately following the Worship Service.

1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Read by May Gazzard
2. **PRAYER:** Rev. Doug Jones opened the meeting with prayer at 11:35 a.m.

The purpose of today's Congregational Meeting is to review and pass the Annual Report for 2022, which was made available on Sunday, February 19, 2023.

In accordance with the United Church Manual, members of the congregation can extend voting rights to permit Adherents to vote on all motions during this meeting.

MOTION: To extend voting privileges on all matters to all in attendance.

Mover: Christine Earley

Secunder: Nancy Lang

Motion carried.

3. **ELECTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

It is the responsibility of the Congregation to elect a Congregational Chair and Secretary each year.

No nominations were made by the congregation.

MOTION: To elect Marianne McRae as the Congregational Chair and Marie Vahrmeyer as the Congregational Secretary (by acclamation).

Mover: Anne Dorland

Secunder: Al DesRoches

Motion carried.

4. **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2022 Annual report was made available on Sunday, February 19, 2023 and contains recaps and reports of the various Committees and activities throughout 2022. No additions, comments or corrections were made.

MOTION: To receive all reports as presented in the Annual Report 2022, except the Finance and Nominating Committee Reports.

Mover: Melanie Kelch

Secunder: Martha Fleming

Motion carried.

5. **2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** (Pages 26-28) Presented by Linda Hardaker
6. **2023 OPERATING EXPENSE AND OPERATING INCOME BUDGET** (Pg. 29)
Presented by Linda Hardaker

MOTION #1 For the 2023 budget presentation to be proposed to the congregation, the Finance Committee proposes a \$158,425.96 budget to offset a \$177,817.45 expense budget for 2023 leaving a deficit for 2023 of \$19,391.49.

Mover: Steve Hardaker

Secunder: Lyndsay Gazzard

Motion carried.

MOTION #2 For the 2023 budget presentation to be proposed to the congregation, the Finance Committee proposed capital expenditures of \$24,500 for 2023.

Mover: Christine Earley

Secunder: Jim Vahrmeyer

Motion carried.

Linda took this opportunity to highlight a few points in her report, there were many areas that fluctuated from expeted budget whether up or down that were pointed out and explained. We had an extra fundraiser that Larry McRae took charge of raising almost \$11,000.

Thanks so much to all! Special mention of the contributions of the ladies of the UCW who work diligently to add to the life and finances of the church. Their annual contribution towards the cost of insurance is greatly appreciated. This year they were able to contribute an extra \$2,000.

We were reminded that the CEBA loan has extended the repayment date twice now and is at this time due December 2023.

Roy Harwood brought the question of the breakdown on the "Salaries expenses" and Marianne explained that it would remain the same due to privacy issues.

Marianne gave special thanks to Linda who brings her expertise and dedication to her role as Church Treasurer, keeping our fiscal house in order and good shape.

7. **MISSION AND SERVICE FUND**

In the absence of Jill Dill, the following motion was presented by Marianne McRae

MOTION: To commit to a goal of \$12,000.00 for our 2023 contribution to the Mission and Service Fund, with the first \$10,000.00 being contributed to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service fund for national and international projects and the remaining commitment to be used in a local Mission and Service Fund for mission and outreach projects in Niagara.

Mover: Nancy Utting

Secunder: Larry McRae

Motion carried.

8. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**: (Pg. 31-33) Presented by Steve Hardaker

Thank you to all members who have taken on roles for the 2023 year as well as special thanks to Marilyn Beatty and Melanie Kelch for their past work on committees who have stepped down from their roles.

Errors or omissions to the report: Jim Vahrmeyer on Property.

New nominees to the Church Board Committees for 2023 include:

- **Sue Foss and Marie Vahrmeyer (secretary)** to the Worship and Faith Life Committee;
- **Harvey Hall and Jim Vahrmeyer** to the Property Committee;
- **Christina Travers** to the Christian Education;
- **Al DesRoches, Mel DesRoches, Carol Hall & Harvey Hall** to Activities Committee;
- **SPIRITUAL CARE** (New committee to replace Friendly Visitors) **Nikole Amato, Rev. YongSeok Baek, Sue Foss, Marianne McRae, Sandi Salewytch, Florence Turner, Nancy Utting, Marie Vahrmeyer, Janet Vanderslagt and Steve Hardaker (Chair)**

At this time Marianne was pleased to announce that last year our Church Board had no permanent Chair or Vice-Chair and ran on rotating position of its members.

Sandra Macdonald has put forth her name to take on the role of Chair and Lyndsay Gazzard that of Vice-Chair. As there were no other names put forth:

MOTION: To elect Sandra Macdonald to the position of Church Board Chair.

Mover: Bonnie Boyda

Seconder: Martha Fleming

Motion carried.

MOTION: To elect Lyndsay Gazzard to the position of Church Board Vice-Chair.

Mover: Christine Earley

Seconder: Florence Turner

Motion Carried

MOTION: To accept the report of the Nominating Committee for all positions on the Church Board and the Trustees.

Mover: Nancy Lang

Seconder: Melanie Kelch

Motion Carried

9. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

There are two amendments to the St. Davids-Queenston United Church Constitution for the congregation to consider:

- **The first being to remove reference to the Friendly Visitors Committee including Terms of Reference and replace them with the Spiritual Care committee including the Terms of Reference.**
- **The second being to extend voting privileges to appointed representatives of each Committee of the Church who are in attendance at the meetings of the church Board.**
- **FURTHER that the constitution of St. Davids-Queenston United Church be amended to reflect these changes.**

MOTION: To amend the constitution of St. Davids-Queenston United Church to reflect the proposed changes.

Mover: Nikole Amato

Secunder: Florence Turner

Motion Carried

10. NEW BUSINESS

As no business was brought before the Congregation, Marianne took this opportunity to recognize each staff member and thank them for their efforts in particular:

Margaret Elia as our caretaker who so many of us never see but enjoy the fruits of her labour.

Darlene Romanowsky as our extraordinary Church Administrator who wears so many different hats and keeps everything running smoothly.

Lisa Brillon as our Choir Director, Pianist, Organist who makes sure there is musical leadership for every single service bringing something special to us each week. Welcome to David Servos to our very talented group.

Rev. YongSeok Baek who constantly brings his unwavering joy and enthusiasm to everything he does.

A special thanks to Rev. Doug Jones, Christine Earley and Rev. Roy Harwood who are all so willing to step into our weekly services in leadership roles when needed.

Thanks to Maya Gazzard our Sunday school teacher who shows the children so much p-assion and love.

Thank you to all our Board Members for all your time and dedication.

A special thanks to Bill Utting and Steve Hardaker who continue to live stream our services every week to bring our church into the homes of those near and far who are unable to attend

11. ADJOURMENT

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Mover: Marilyn Fox-Calhoun

Second: Larry McRae

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned.

Rev. Doug Jones did the blessing for lunch to be enjoyed following the meeting and thanked Marianne McRae for all her hard work.

Submitted by Marie Vahrmeyer,
Congregational Secretary

MINISTER'S LETTER

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your minister and to be a part of this vibrant, loving community. It has been a joy to witness the many ways in which we have grown and strengthened our faith together over the past year in 2023.

It has continued to be a challenging year in church life with the ongoing challenges after the pandemic. However, we have been witnessing the care and commitment of the board, all committees, all greeters and ushers, Steve Hardaker and Bill Utting live-streaming, our beloved pianist Lisa Brillon and the choir members for the vibrancy of community life at St. Davids-Queenston United Church. We are so grateful for everyone in these groups.

I thought about what kind of community our church would be in 2023. It was an opportunity to discover God's grace through them, and I would like to share it with you as well, which became the subjects of my gratitude for 2023.

First, we are a community of worship. We have worshiped God here in St. Davids-Queenston United Church throughout 2023. Every week for 52 Sundays, we've gathered together to praise, pray, listen to the Word, and had fellowship. Those who could not attend the service in person for various reasons joined us through live-streaming. Sometimes we had to sing hymns we didn't know, sometimes we shook our heads when different ideas were shared, and there were probably many mistakes made during the services. But we went beyond them and were together under the name of St. Davids-Queenston United Church. The reason why all of this was possible is because of God's grace for our faith community plus the efforts of all of us. The first thanks to God is that this community of faith has been well in faith. I thank God and thank you all for your efforts.

Second, we were a caring community in 2023. Our church did our best to care for and encouraged one another. There's a saying I like, "Shared sadness makes it bearable, and shared happiness is that much sweeter." We learned how to grieve, comfort, and pray for someone's pain. We also laughed and celebrated for someone's joy. I love describing the church as a family. Our St. Davids-Queenston family was sensitive and proactive to the joys and sorrows of its individual members in 2023. There were also times when we felt left out, we were worried that our joy would stimulate the pain of others, and there were times when our pain was so severe that we could not even accept comfort from others. But we did not forget that we were a family gathered in faith and were here for each other. I am so grateful that our church is a community that spreads God's comfort, shares the love of Jesus, and experiences the presence of the Holy Spirit through our care. The second subject of gratitude is God's guidance that has enabled our church to properly fulfill its role as a caring community.

Continued on Pg. 7

MINISTER'S LETTER *cont'd...*

Lastly, in 2023, our church was a positive place for children and youth to stay. Many churches are losing their younger generation. Even within the United Church, over 70% of churches do not have Sunday school. There aren't even any statistics on youth groups in the UCC. Many people easily say that children are the future of church. However, making it possible requires a lot of effort and responsibility. Our church is doing well in this difficult task. I also felt that there were big changes through the way you met our children. I could feel the change from your warm words and gestures when you met our kids. I can surely say that you now know how to welcome our children properly. Those positive changes are what made our children stay at this church. Sometimes there may be situations where children ran around the church, made noise, made a mess, etc. But it is a huge blessing to hear their laughing, giggling, and chuckling in the church. We need to invite them to become more central to the church. We must accept and respect them as core members of our Church through our understanding and concession. And we also need to nurture these children so that they grow well in faith. Then, when they grow up, they will be right where you are sitting. Thank you to the many people who work hard and support these children and their programs, Special thanks to Maya Gazzard, our beloved Sunday school teacher, and Sue Foss, chair of the committee. My final thanks is to God for sending us our children and being a faith community with them.

Personally, I cannot forget the love and encouragement you have given my family and me throughout the year. Thank you all so much. The driving force of my ministry is your prayers and encouragement. Thank you to everyone who gave me so much love even though I had many shortcomings. And if you have been hurt by my words or actions this year, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to you as well. We have had a great year as a faith community. You folks did a great job. We did all together. We are a family and community of faith. Thank you, God, for your grace in 2023.

Blessings,

Rev. YongSeok Baek

CHURCH BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

This past year was my first as Board Chair. As the chair I got to work with a number of dedicated people who made our Church run smoothly. We are lucky to have many talented people in our congregation and people willing to take on difficult assignments to ensure that things run smoothly.

First I would like to thank our staff. Rev. YongSeok's infectious personality brings life to our Church. I appreciate all his efforts to care for those of the congregation from the very young to our senior citizens. Establishing the Youth group and Friendly Visitors groups ensure that everyone in our Church family feels important. We are extremely lucky to have a professional music director in Lisa Brillon. Her dedication to the Choir each week and especially the Christmas Cantata are very much appreciated by all. Our secretary Darlene works diligently to ensure that the Church office is well run. Bulletins and offerings are always up to date. Thank you to Margaret who's work behind the scene, in keeping the Church clean and welcoming every week is very appreciated.

Thank you to the Board Members. I know that the committees you lead are very time consuming. Just know that your efforts have been greatly appreciated. Our meetings are filled with a lot of hard work, compassion and commitment to the congregations needs.

Thank you to everyone who works on the various committees and events held throughout the year. All of our events have been very successful due to the number of people willing to "put up their hands" to help.

One of the highlights of the year for me was seeing Maya Gazzard being awarded the Baillie Volunteer Service Award. Congratulations Maya, it was well deserved and thank you for everything you have done for the Youth and Sunday School over the year.

Unfortunately we lost some long time, dearly beloved Church members this year. Our Church is our extended family. This became very evident with the losses. When wondering how the "shoes" of those we lost would be filled, I had people coming up to me saying "don't worry about this....I can take that on."

In conclusion, I see the role as having 2 purposes. One is to ensure that the Church is there when people need it and secondly to ensure that the people are there when the Church needs them.

Regards,
Sandra Macdonald

WORSHIP AND FAITH LIFE

This year 2023 felt more like a pre covid environment in the Church.

We said good bye to Karen Horbach as she retired from the Committee and we thank her for all her devotion and work for the Church.

As per usual we offer a special thank you to Lisa Brillon for her music leadership and the choir for all the lovely music.

Due to unforeseen circumstances much pulpit supply was needed and we were thankful to Rev. Jones, Christine Early, Rev. Diane Walker and Rev. Lloyd Bennett who gladly filled in and met our religious needs. We were very grateful for their assistance. We were truly happy and blessed when Rev. Baek was cleared to return to our congregation bringing his joy and happiness with him.

With the loss of Nancy Lang we were without a Christian Education Leader and are thankful to Sue Foss for stepping up to fill this empty role working with Gaye Norrad and Bonnie Boyda.

Maya Gazzard continued to provide wonderful leadership (along with Cameron) to the Sunday school. A wonderful Christmas party was held for the children this year.

As well, a special shout out to Christina Travers for her musical teaching and guidance with our young children. Their singing and playing their instruments were a joy for the entire congregation.

A Remembrance Day wreath was placed at the monument at the front of the driveway of the church this year as well as the one laid in the sanctuary by Al DesRoches and at the Queenston Cenotaph by Norma Jane Harber.

It was another year of live streaming by Steve Hardaker and Bill Utting for which we are all grateful.

The Mitten tree was again over loaded with socks, scarves, mittens, hats and the food bin was full as well. Thank you to all who contributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Utting

BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Forward January 1, 2023..... **\$1,417.25**

RECEIPTS

(Choir) Candle Light Cantata Offering Collection..... **\$545.00**

DISBURSEMENTS **\$0.00**

Balance December 31, 2023 **\$1,962.25**

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance Forward January 1, 2023..... **\$2,751.93**

RECEIPTS

Memorial Donations **2,709.62**

Our Daily Bread Donations **54.00**

TOTAL RECEIPTS..... **2,763.62**

DISBURSEMENTS

Plaque Mounting of Directory Picture..... **\$91.52**

Donation to Our Daily Bread..... **54.00**

Covenanting Service Supplies **144.14**

Baptism Candles **20.31**

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **309.97**

Balance December 31, 2023 **5,205.58**

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky

Bookkeeper

BAPTISMS

Robert Douglas Gale

June 25th

IN MEMORIUM

Jeffrey Page	January 21st
Wilda Chapman	February 5th
Alice Page	April 3rd
Lois Crossman	June 1st
Nell Van Den Houten	July 29th
Nancy Lang	August 5th
Marge Faragher	August 23rd

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky

SPIRITUAL CARE COMMITTEE (Reaching Out)

The Spiritual Care Committee was established in 2022 and its key mission is to work with our Minister to provide pastoral care to those in our congregation in need of support. During 2023, the committee met on the fourth Wednesday of most months to conduct its 'Reaching Out' gathering. During the monthly meetings, congregation members who, for any number of reasons, require our spiritual care are identified and ways to reach out are determined. During the year, the committee has mailed out "thinking-of-you" greeting cards to several Congregation members. The Spiritual Care Committee also coordinated the Secret Angle Caroling activity. Rev. Baek continues to make regular visits to those in our congregations who may not be able to come to church and that need his gentle care in times of their need.

Members of the Spiritual Care Committee are, Nicole Amato, Rev. YongSeok Baek, Sue Foss, Steve Hardaker (Chair), Marianne McRae, Sandi Salewytch, Florence Turner, Nancy Utting, Marie Vahrmeyer and Janet Vanderslagt and we sincerely thank them for their participation, compassion and efforts to reach out to our congregation.

Submitted by, Steve Hardaker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Trustees include, Florence Turner, Howie Lowrey, Clair Boyda, Tim Andrews, Jim Vahrmeyer, Monty Slingerland and Rev. Doug Jones. We express thanks to Howie as he continues to facilitate our financial activities and requirements. His report is included in our Annual Report.

We gratefully welcomed Monty Slingerland to the Trustees this year.

This year's spring and fall clean-up of the cemetery went very well and expanded in the necessary removal of a dying tree and a few overgrown evergreen bushes. This was carried out in keeping with municipal bylaws governing tree removal. Thanks to our mighty crew that volunteered. The final step was completed by having Arbor Tree Services grind down the remaining stumps as well as two, very aged large stumps in the historic area of the cemetery.

After thorough review of our insurance needs, costs and prospective providers the Trustees recommended to the Board that we remain with our current provider. This was accepted and approved by the Board. Thanks to Steve Hardaker for his ad hoc work on this file.

The Trustees recommended to the Board that we utilise Kindred Works, a development group working with the UCC. Kindred Works consults (at no cost) with Congregations to explore development of church properties where space and/or land might be re-purposed. After thorough exploration regarding the open land next to the newer area of the cemetery Kindred determined there was no possibilities for physical development due to its land-locked nature. Other creative uses (even temporary) will be explored this coming year.

We will again attempt a review of our current cemetery by-laws and more thorough promotion of cemetery plot availability to the local community.

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Doug Jones – Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**CREDITS**

Balance Brought Forward Jan. 1, 2023	\$2,604.11
Public Trustee Interest	4,797.07
Sale of Lots	3,000.00
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Grant	3,962.85
Headstone Maintenance Fee	300.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$14,664.03

DEBITS

Maintenance and Upkeep.....	\$11,635.59
Public Guardian and Trustee.....	1,500.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$13,135.59

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 **\$1,528.44**

Plots Sold: 3

Number of Burials: 2 interments
9 cremations

Submitted by Howard Lowrey

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

As we begin a new year I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all members of the Ministry & Personnel Committee - Marianne McRae, Bonnie Boyda and Anne Dorland for their participation and help this year.

The Ministry & Personnel Committee is tasked with ensuring that our church complies with all Ontario labor laws and policies. The Committee must keep current on all current workplace policies including police clearance requirements, sexual harassment and racism in the workplace. The Committee also creates and refreshes any policies that are missing from those required by the wider church.

Each member of the Committee is assigned to a specific staff member and meets with them to assist with any challenges they may face while working. This work includes approving and recording vacation, assisting at times of illness and family challenges and ensuring our staff is supported at all times. We create and update job descriptions and facilitate changes in salary as directed by the United Church of Canada Head Office. All salary changes for employees are set by the Head Office of the UCC and are a reflection of changes in the cost of living and inflation.

The Committee meets 2-3 times per year especially around the time of setting the annual financial budget. One key task is that each member of staff must receive an annual formal review of their work load and performance. This review is carried out by the M&P Committee members.

It is important to note that the Ministry & Personnel Committee are obligated to work in a confidential manner and to apply a Christian perspective to all the human resource challenges that may be encountered.

This year our Committee again successfully completed all our work and we look forward to doing so again next year.

We encourage any member of the Congregation interested in joining us to reach out at any time.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Lyndsay Gazzard

Chair - Ministry & Personnel

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Happy New Year to all of our St. Davids-Queenston family. First off I would like to thank the members of property committee for all they do to help maintain the facility. Monty Slingerland, Steve Hardaker, Allan Cobham, John Krawiec, Jim Vahrmeyer, Harvey Hall, Ron Chapman, and Bob Kerr are the unsung heroes.

During 2023 we solved a drainage problem that was causing flooding into the neighbors' property. We also had a contractor waterproof the wall of the kitchen to stop the leak in the wall. To make Darlene's job easier some counters and a storage cupboard in the room outside her office were built and installed.

The issue with water build up and not draining properly that was in the 2023 budget was put over until 2024 to come up with the best solution for the issue.

Late in the year we applied for and received another \$7500 security grant that we are in the process of deciding how we can best use the funds to make the building as secure as possible.

Unfortunately Ron Chapman and Bob Kerr are no longer able to work on property which is sad but the good news is Willie Harrison has agreed to join the committee.

Lastly I would like to thank those in the congregation who graciously gave up their time to keep the sidewalks clean and safe during the winter. Without these volunteers the church would have to pay to do this which under these tough financial times would put a further strain on the churches budget.

Bill Utting
Property Chair

MISSION & OUTREACH

Our church donated 52 shoe boxes to Samaritan's Purse.

Our Local Outreach donated \$300.00 to RAFT (Resource Association for Teens) located in St. Catharines. This donation came from our once a month "Tooney" Sunday collections.

Thank you all, so much for your generosity to the M&S fund as well as the Tooney fund.

Sincerely,

Jill Dill (chair) and the M&S committee.

MISSION & OUTREACH FINANCE

Dedicated Amount \$10,000.00

(From envelope offerings)

To

The United Church of Canada Mission & Service Fund

Total Contributions from envelope offerings (Jan1-Dec 31st, 2023)	\$8,447.00
Pledged amount to The United Church of Canada National M&S fund	\$10,000.00
Excess amount above dedicated amount (designated for Local Outreach)	\$0.00

MISSION & OUTREACH

Designated for Local Outreach

(From Tooney Sunday donations & Excess Pledged amount to National Church M&S Fund)

TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD (Tooney Sunday).....	746.62
Excess Pledged amount to National M&S Fund.....	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL BALANCE	746.62
<u>LOCAL OUTREACH</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023</u>	<u>\$446.62</u>

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky, Bookkeeper

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It's been a very difficult year with the passing of our dear friend and Chair of Christian Education Nancy Lang. Our condolences go out to Nancy's family. After Nancy's passing, I decided I should step up to the challenge and become Chair of this very important committee.

Since taking over as Chair of Christian Education in September I want to thank Maya for all she does for the Sunday school. She certainly is a blessing to all the children. They absolutely adore her.

Rev. Baek and I have met regularly since September making sure children's time in front of the church on Sunday mornings is looked after. Thank you Sue Cote for helping with children's time.

We held our first Christmas party for the Sunday school after the mitten tree service. We served pizza, made cut out sugar cookies, decorated the Christmas tree in the Christian Education hall and played games. There were 10 children participating. As the children left they took home a little goody bag to enjoy afterwards. Everyone had a great time.

YOUTH GROUP

In October we held our Friday night Safe Haven Youth Group. Very few youth turned out for our first meeting after summer break so we decided to change the age group. Any youth from grade 6 to grade 12 are welcome to attend. The hours open are from 6pm to 9pm. Since we lowered the age group we have had anywhere to 6-10 youth show up. A dear friend of mine donated a Wii game system. The youth are having so much fun. Especially with the bowling game. There's a lot of competition going on and everyone is cheering each other on. Very exciting to say the least. During the evening we enjoy snacks, play games and have fellowship together. A great time for the youth to come and enjoy an evening out in a safe environment.

I want to thank Rev. Baek and the congregation for allowing me to be a part of this very important committee. I love what I do and I look forward to seeing what 2024 has to do offer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Foss

SENIOR CHOIR

Once again, the Senior Choir had a wonderful year of singing weekly anthems and presenting our annual Candlelight Service in December. We have 15 members in the choir.

David Servos joined the choir in the tenor section as well as the return of Jake de Vlaming, Kathy Paul and Sue Cote.

We did not do a cantata at Easter, but instead sang several anthems at the Good Friday and Easter services.

Many thanks to our wonderful soloists who sang solos when the choir was unable to sing during the service – Val Zuk, Nancy Lang, Allan Cobham and Bob Prentice.

We had our Christmas ‘potluck’ at Melanie and Allan Cobham’s lovely home in June since we did not get to have our party last year!

Sadly, we lost Nancy Lang, a wonderful person, and a dedicated and valuable choir member in August. The choir sang at her celebration of life – “Faith to Carry On”. We miss seeing Nancy’s smiling face in the choir loft.

Our Candlelight Service was well attended, and we performed the cantata ‘Appalachian Spring’. The offering received from the service will go to the benevolent fund.

Many thanks to Christina Travers for playing the flute and violin with us on several of the anthems during the year – we really enjoy having her beautiful instrumental sound combine with our voices.

And of course thank you to Anthony Scaringi who substitutes for myself when I am away – he is much appreciated and an amazing pianist!

Finally, Anne Dorland has retired from the choir and we would like to thank her for her MANY years of dedicated service to the choir as an alto. We will miss Anne’s voice and fun personality.

Many thanks to Rev. Baek and the congregation for their support and response to our anthems every week!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Brillon

Choir Director, pianist, organist

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Judy Kerr, Martha Fleming, Valerie Zuk and Sandra Macdonald

On behalf of the flower committee, the following is a breakdown of our donations and expenses throughout the year.

Balance January 1, 2023:		\$625.81
Misc. Cash Donations	\$25.00	\$ 25.00
Expenses:		
Easter	\$111.78	
Thanksgiving Sunday	\$ 60.00	
Advent & Christmas Services	\$ 83.11	
Sunday Services	\$288.32	
Total Expenses:	\$543.21	
Dec 31, 2023 Closing Balance		\$107.60

2024 Memorial Poinsettia Fundraiser \$590.00

Thank you to Judy Kerr, Martha Fleming and Val Zuk for all their assistance throughout the year.

Thank you to Karen & Peter Horbach for donating the beautiful poinsettia plants.

Thank you to Sandra Edgeworth & Tim Andrews for the beautiful greenery.

Thank you to Darlene Romanowsky for putting all the announcements throughout the year into the bulletins and especially for the Christmas Memorial insert.

Thank you to everyone who placed flowers in the Church throughout the year in memory of a loved one. Thank you to those who shared flowers from their gardens over the summer.

Our Memorial fundraiser was a huge success this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed. With the increase in costs for everything, your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Macdonald.

UCW

The UCW continues to meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM for friendship and tea with the meeting commencing at 200 PM from September to June.

Monthly pie bakes of individual fruit and meat pies continue to be on track as a successful fundraiser. They are baked on the last Friday of each month (excluding December) from September until May. The success of this is due to all the great ladies, UCW as well as members from the congregation and friends who faithfully come each month to help as well.

The last Sunday of each month has been designated as “Birthday Sunday” with cake provided by the UCW to celebrate. This has become a much appreciated event.

A huge thank you to Judy Kerr again this summer for the planting and maintenance of the gardens at the front of the Church. A thank you to the UCW, Property Committee and Karen Horbach for their donations for flowers.

World Day of Prayer was celebrated on March 3, 2023 talking about Women of Taiwan and was held at St. Saviors Church in Queenston. Nancy Lang from our UCW group was a reader.

The June meeting was a luncheon held at Bricks and Barley Restaurant with 12 ladies in attendance and all had a good time. It was decided at this meeting to pay \$9,000.00 towards the church insurance.

The fall meetings were concerned with ideas for the bazaar and a resumption of pie baking.

The bazaar was held on November 11th, 2023 with extra meetings to be held to prepare crafts and finalize details. A quilt raffle will be a part of the bazaar this year with the final draw being held on December 10th, 2023.

On a sad note we lost 2 blessed member of our UCW. Lifetime member Alice page passed away in April 2023 and Nancy Lang passed away in August 2023. Alice had worked tirelessly within the Church and had been UCW President for many years. Both leave a huge loss in our Committee, with Nancy Lang leaving a loss in the Congregation and Christian Education. They will be sadly missed by all.

Our last meeting of 2023 was a lunch held at Mick and Angelo’s Restaurant in Niagara Falls.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members of the Congregation for pitching in when needed to help with the work of the UCW.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Utting, Secretary

UCW
(FINANCE)

Balance Forward January 1, 2023 \$9,094.84

RECEIPTS

Meat pies 6,475.50

Bazaar 5,680.00

Quilt..... 933.00

Funeral/Shower 800.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$13,888.50

DISBURSMENTS

Insurance 9,000.00

Anniversary Flowers 27.10

Susan Page..... 300.00

Project Share..... 500.00

Rev. Baek (Safe Haven) 500.00

Red Roof Retreat 500.00

Newark Neighbours..... 500.00

Gardens..... 100.00

10K Fundraiser 1,300.00

Petty Cash/Kitchen Supplies 316.70

TOTAL DISBURSMENTS \$13,043.80

Balance December 31, 2023 \$9,939.54

Submitted by Violet McArthur
Treasurer

PIE BOOTH

Once again, despite the heat, humidity and thunderstorms, the Pie Booth had another good year at the Lions Carnival.

I would like to thank all that were involved- all who donated to help cover expenses, those that set up and took down the booth, those that stood and sold the pies, the runners that made countless trips from the church to the booth delivering pies, and especially to the makers and bakers that were at the church every morning by 8am, in the heat, to make pies and to all that gave love and moral support and to the UCW that loaned us \$1000.00 to purchase supplies..

This is a church fundraiser and the entire congregation was involved in making it a success.

198 pies and 5 chocolate cakes were made and sold in 4 days. The total income was \$6,494.00. The expenses, including repayment to the UCW were \$2,160.00, leaving a net profit of **\$4,334.00.**

WELL DONE-Thank you to each and every one for making this happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Florence Turner, Convener.

ACTIVITIES

Activities Committee Members: Bonnie & Clair Boyda, Harvey & Carol Hall, Al DesRoches , Judy & Bob Kerr and Doug & Violet McArthur.

It is with great sadness that we faced the passing of Nancy Lang this year. Nancy is sorely missed.

This year has been a successful year for our Beef-on-a Bun. Our committee has worked hard on promoting the Beef-on-a Bun nights.

We are indebted to those who have assisted in helping us.

I would like to thank the people who have assisted our committee in making pies and other deserts, those who have made the advertising posters, advertised on the internet and all the people who have assisted our committee in serving and clean-up on the individual nights. Our Success would not be possible without a group effort.

We are also grateful to all the people who have supported the Beef-on-a Bun, from our church congregation and the community.

The schedule for Beef-on-a Bun nights will be the 2nd Friday of every month from January to May, starting again in September to December.

The Activities committee will be sponsoring a spring yard sale in May or June. To be announced.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has help make our successful year possible.

Activities Committee Profits for 2023

Beef-on-a Bun: \$4,404.65

Yard Sale: \$2,008.08

TOTAL: \$6,412.73

Yours Truly,
Doug McArthur

REGIONAL COUNCIL SUMMARY REPORT

The first meeting in 2023 took place from June 8-10. The main topic was "Working Towards Reconciliation", stating that the United Church should work *with* the Indigenous population and not make decisions *for* the Indigenous members. This was followed by discussion on Remit #1, which is to be voted on by the Governing Body by March 31, 2024. The Remit is to establish a governance framework for Indigenous churches under the umbrella of the United Church of Canada.

The slate of nominations for the HFRC Executive and members of the three Commissions was presented. The meeting adjourned to Wesley United Church in Welland where there was a video presentation from the candidates for Ordination. A service to confirm the ordinations and the list of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders was conducted.

The Rev Lennox Scarlett was installed as the President of HFRC.

The second meeting took place from October 13-15. A survey sent out to Clergy led to a reminder that the M&P committees must comply with the rules of the United Church and cannot change the wording of a Call. It was also mentioned that HFRC was looking for more people to enroll in the LLWL course. This was followed by more discussion on Remit#1 and its implications. A vote on the Remit followed.

Representatives asked for an evaluation of HFRC with the idea being of meeting with other churches regularly. The Regional Council said this idea should be from the bottom up, ie, it is not their responsibility to organize such an undertaking. The Treasurer then presented the RC budget, which passed.

The two Ministers of Pelham Community Church were formally ordained into the United Church of Canada. At this point a statement was made that individual churches would now pay directly for a Pastoral Charge Supervisor to attend meetings and conduct occasional services. The travel portion would continue to be paid by HFRC.

The HFRC was looking for 14 diverse people to be Commissioners to General Council 2025. Anyone can apply through the Expression of Interest page on the HFRC website but must do so before the Spring meeting of HFRC.

The next meeting will be held in May 2024.

Submitted by Larry McRae
Regional Council Representative

DONATION STATISTICS**SUMMARY OF DONATIONS BY CATEGORY (Envelope Offerings)****Between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023**

Category	Amount (\$)	# Donations	# Donors
Anniversary	1,067.00	11	10
Christmas	2,510.00	23	23
Christmas Eve	225.00	3	3
Easter	1,000.00	23	23
Envelopes	223.00	20	20
Mission-PAR	2,097.00	79	7
Missions	6,350.00	239	21
Regular	75,724.15	1079	75
Regular-PAR	42,621.54	288	26
Thanksgiving	1,060.00	15	15
TOTAL	\$132,877.69	1,468	199

“NB” Christmas Eve includes \$185 from loose offerings

Envelopes include \$5 from loose offerings TOTAL LOOSE OFFERINGS: \$1,295.00

Regular includes \$1,105 from loose offerings.

SUMMARY OF DONATIONS BY CATEGORY (non-envelope)**Between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023**

Category	Amount (\$)	# Donations	# Donors
10K Fundraiser	11,574.00	103	42
Youth Group	340.00	4	2
TOTAL	\$11,914.00	107	44

TOTAL DISTINCT DONORS ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES: 96
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GIVING ANALYSIS**2023**

Over \$2,000.00	19
\$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00	34
\$500.00 to \$999.00	13
\$100.00 to \$499.00	20
\$10.00-\$99.00	10
TOTAL DONORS	96

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky

Bookkeeper

*St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2023***BANK RECONCILIATION****OPERATING**

December 31, 2023

Ledger Balance	\$98,583.08
Balance Bank Statement	99,821.62
Plus O/S Deposits	1,050.00
Minus Outstanding Expenses	2,288.54
Balance	\$98,583.08

REGISTER BALANCE

December 31, 2023

Register Ending Balance 2023	\$134,489.75
Plus Income.....	<u>140,860.58</u>
Total Income	275,350.33
Less Expenses	<u>176,767.25</u>
Register Balance	\$98,583.08

BANK RECONCILIATION**CAPITAL**

December 31, 2023

Ledger Balance	\$59,011.50
Balance Bank Statement	59,160.28
Plus O/S Deposits	0.00
Minus Outstanding Expenses.....	<u>0.00</u>
Balance	\$59,160.28

REGISTER BALANCE

December 31, 2023

Register Ending Balance 2023	\$64,516.55
Plus Income.....	<u>920.89</u>
Total Income	65,437.44
Less Expenses	<u>6,277.16</u>
Register Balance	\$59,160.28

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky, Bookkeeper

FINANCE

The Finance committee report includes tables showing our income and expenses for 2023, our proposed income and expenses for 2023 and our cash position and guaranteed investment certificates as of December 31, 2023.

OPERATING INCOME

Total Operating Income for 2023	173,171
Operating Income Budget for 2023	158,426
SURPLUS TO BUDGET	<u>14,745</u>

Our source(s) of income:

Envelope offerings	124,506
Other government and council grants and loans	4,905
Fundraising projects	22,445
Interest earned	5,488
The UCW continued their generous donation to cover the cost of Church insurance	9,000
Wedding & Rentals	2,705
The remaining income comes from miscellaneous sources	4,123
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	<u>173,171</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Total Operating Expense for 2023	-170,609
Operating Expense Budget for 2023	-177,817
UNDER BUDGET	<u>7,208</u>

Major variances to budget:

Insurance	-1,341
Minister's reimbursed expenses	516
Property	843
Recoverable HST	-2,595
Trustees	6,000
Worship & Faith Life	3,036
TOTAL MAJOR VARIANCES TO BUDGET	<u>6,458</u>

DEFICIT

We completed the year 2023 with an operating surplus:	<u><u>2,562</u></u>
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PROPOSED OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET FOR 2024

Proposed income budget for 2024	153,371
Proposed expenses budget for 2024	-192,443
Proposed operating deficit for 2024	<u><u>-39,072</u></u>

*St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2023***CAPITAL INCOME**

Total Capital Income for 2023	<u>0</u>
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CAPITAL EXPENSES

Total Capital Expenses for 2023	<u>6,178</u>
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Our capital expense was to complete a property appraisal, convert the nursery into office space, replace the sanctuary track lighting, and additional waterproofing for the kitchen.

DEFICIT

We completed the year 2023 with a capital deficit:	<u><u>-6,178</u></u>
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PROPOSED CAPITAL INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET FOR 2024

Proposed income budget for 2024	0
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Proposed expenses budget for 2024	<u>-10,000</u>
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Proposed operating deficit for 2024	<u><u>-10,000</u></u>
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CASH POSITION AND GIC INVESTMENTS

Bank balance as of December 31, 2023	
Operating account	98,583
Capital account	<u>59,160</u>
TOTAL CASH as of DECEMBER 31, 2023	<u><u>157,743</u></u>

GIC Investments balance as of December 31, 2023	
Current Value CDN\$ Investments	125,914

TOTAL ASSETS as of DECEMBER 31, 2023	<u><u>283,657</u></u>
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LOOKING AHEAD

Our operating budget is based on a realistic expectation again for this year. Traditionally, we had proposed a balanced budget with the expectation that Envelope Givings will meet those needs. For the year 2024, we are continuing to deviate from that approach to show the congregation our financial position as we expect it to unfold during the year. As a result, we are projecting an operating deficit of \$39,072 and a capital deficit of \$10,000

We thank everyone who is currently on a Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) plan. To help meet our budget, we encourage you to review your regular givings and to consider going on our PAR plan. This ensures consistent and regular support of the operation of our church, even when you are unable to attend Worship Service in person.

St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2023

GIC/Term deposit holdings @ Dec 31/23

Issue Date	Maturity date	Interest Rate	Principal	Accrued Interest	Value Dec 31/23	Maturity Value
7/25/22	7/25/24	4.20%	18,444.51	353.84	19,573.02	20,026.39
7/25/22	7/25/24	4.20%	10,823.36	207.64	11,485.58	11,751.61
7/25/22	7/25/24	4.20%	22,099.12	423.95	23,451.23	23,994.43
7/25/22	7/25/24	4.20%	16,175.19	310.31	17,164.86	17,562.44
7/07/23	7/07/24	3%	11,487.84	168.07	11,655.91	11,487.84
7/28/23	10/01/24	5.10%	16,753.29	367.52	17,120.81	17,767.63
10/23/23	10/23/205	5.60%	6,475.22	69.54	6,544.76	7,220.75
Account 05449			102,258.53		106,996.17	109,811.09
7/04/23	9/02/24	4.50%	8,612.73	192.19	8,804.92	9,066.88
4/25/22	7/25/24	4.20%	9,529.67	182.82	10,112.74	10,346.98
Account 05448			18,142.40		18,917.66	19,413.86
			120,400.93		125,913.83	129,224.95

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2024

	2023			2024	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Proposed Budget	Increase from 2023 Actual
INCOME					
Business Donation	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Envelope Givings	124,505.69	126,290.96	-1,785.27	130,571.31	6,065.62
Fundraising	22,444.70	23,600.00	-1,155.30	13,100.00	-9,344.70
HST Recovery	4,905.26	3,000.00	1,905.26	3,000.00	-1,905.26
Interest	4,566.74	-	4,566.74	-	-4,566.74
Interest Earned (Capital)	920.89	-	920.89	-	-920.89
Missional Grant	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
On-Line Donation (Canada Helps)	2,340.17	-	2,340.17	-	-2,340.17
Ontario Anti Hate security grant	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
Pension designation Bell Canada	582.60	500.00	82.60	500.00	-82.60
Sale of Church Calendars	-	35.00	-35.00	-	0.00
UCW	9,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	-4,000.00
Weddings & Rentals	2,705.00	-	2,705.00	-	-2,705.00
	173,171.05	158,425.96	14,745.09	153,371.31	19,799.74
EXPENSES					
Advertising	1,296.05	1,200.00	-96.05	1,300.00	3.95
Bank Charges	69.01	100.00	30.99	100.00	30.99
Children & Youth Ministry	22.69	250.00	272.69	500.00	522.69
Church Salaries Employees	104,573.88	105,258.25	684.37	111,357.08	6,783.20
Church Salaries Contractors	19,987.88	19,907.88	-80.00	20,645.60	657.72
Denominational Dues	5,279.00	5,279.00	0.00	6,051.79	772.79
Fall Luncheon	176.55	-	-176.55	200.00	23.45
Insurance	9,341.08	8,000.00	-1,341.08	9,500.00	158.92
Internet Service	1,071.60	1,200.00	128.40	1,200.00	128.40
Kitchen Supplies	-	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2024

	2023			2024	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Proposed Budget	Increase from 2023 Actual
Livestreaming expenses	1,032.50	1,200.00	167.50	1,200.00	167.50
Minister's reimbursed expenses	1,577.49	2,093.00	515.51	2,190.00	612.51
Office	4,268.64	4,400.00	131.36	4,850.00	581.36
PAR	152.06	160.00	7.94	160.00	7.94
Property	10,113.68	10,956.32	842.64	10,640.44	526.76
Recoverable HST	2,594.93	-	-2,989.23	3,050.00	455.07
Trustees	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Unforeseen Expenses	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
Utilities	7,470.10	6,650.00	-820.10	7,900.00	429.90
Worship & Faith Life	1,627.31	4,663.00	3,035.69	5,098.00	3,470.69
	170,609.07	177,817.45	6,814.08	192,442.91	21,833.84
	2,561.98	-19,391.49	21,559.17	-39,071.60	-41,633.58
	-	-			
COVID-19 relief	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	-	0.00
	-37,438.02	-59,391.49	21,559.17	-39,071.60	-41,633.58
Operating bank account, opening balance, Jan 01/24				98,583.08	
Investment maturing to repay COVID repayment				40,000.00	
Operating bank account, closing balance, Dec 31/24				99,511.48	

PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024

Opening capital balance Jan 01/24	<u>59,160.28</u>
<u>Property</u>	
Draining issues, leaking in kitchen, scupper on flat roof (not completed 2023)	6,000.00
Street sign conversion to electronic sign	4,000.00
	<hr/>
Total requested by Property Committee	<u>10,000.00</u>
Capital deficit 2024	<u>10,000.00</u>
Closing capital balance Dec 31/24	<u><u>49,160.28</u></u>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee was made up of the 2023 Chairs of the Committees: Jill Dill, Lyndsay Gazzard, Steve Hardaker, **Sue Foss**, Sandra Macdonald, Doug McArthur, Marianne McRae, Bill Utting and Nancy Utting. We present the following names for your acceptance.

Bold type used to identify new members.

MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**WORSHIP AND FAITH LIFE:**

Rev. YongSeok Baek (Minister)

Lisa Brillon (ex officio)

Sue Foss

Norma Jane Harber

Melanie Kelch

Sandra Macdonald

Doug McArthur

Nancy Utting (Chair)

Marie Vahrmeyer (Secretary)

Valerie Zuk

FINANCE:

Nicole Amato

Howard Lowrey

Linda Hardaker (Treasurer)

Mary Harrison

Larry McRae

Marianne McRae (Chair)

Darlene Romanowsky (Bookkeeper)

PROPERTY:

Allan Cobham

Harvey Hall

Steven Hardaker

Weldon Harrison

John Krawiec

Monty Slingerland

Bill Utting (Chair)

Jim Vahrmeyer

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL:

Bonnie Boyda

Susan Cote

Lyndsay Gazzard (Chair)

Marianne McRae

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT *cont'd...***MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

Gaye Norrad
Bonnie Boyda
Sue Foss (Chair)
Stephanie Morley
Christina Travers

SPIRITUAL CARE:

Nicole Amato
Rev. YongSeok Baek
Sue Cote
Sue Foss
Steve Hardaker (Chair)
Marianne McRae
Sandi Salewytsh
Florence Turner
Nancy Utting
Marie Vahrmeyer

MISSION & OUTREACH:

Jeff Dill
Jill Dill (Chair)
Jennifer McCarthy

FLOWER COMMITTEE:

Martha Fleming
Judy Kerr
Sandra Macdonald (Chair)
Valerie Zuk

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

Bonnie Boyda
Claire Boyda
Al Des Roches
Carol Hall
Harvey Hall
Judy Kerr
Doug McArthur (Chair)

*St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2023*NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT *cont'd...***CONGREGATIONAL CHAIR:**

Marianne McRae

CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY:

Marie Vahrmeyer

CHURCH BOARD CHAIR:

Sandra Macdonald

CHURCH BOARD VICE-CHAIR:

Lyndsay Gazzard

CHURCH BOARD SECRETARY:

Vacant

CHURCH BOARD TREASURER:

Linda Hardaker

CHURCH BOARD AT LARGE MEMBERS:

Marie Vahrmeyer

Vacant

REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Larry McRae

Vacant

CAVE SPRINGS CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE

Gaye Norrad

Jim Mable**EXTENSION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Marianne McRae

TRUSTEES:

Tim Andrews

Clair Boyda

Rev. Doug Jones (Chair)

Howard Lowrey

Monty Slingerland

Florence Turner

Jim Vahrmeyer

Submitted by Steve Hardaker