



Celebrating

180 YEARS

as a congregation

2024

Annual Report

GRACE UNITED CHURCH, CALEDONIA

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ANNUAL STATISTICS

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|
| Grace United Church Membership December 31, 2023: | | 138 |
| Joined through | Profession of Faith | 0 |
| | Reaffirmation of Faith | 0 |
| | Transfer In | 3 |
| | Other | 0 |
| Left through | Transfer Out | 1 |
| | Resignation/Other | 0 |
| | Death | <u>6</u> |
| Grace United Church Membership December 31, 2024: | | 134 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Households under Pastoral Care | 126 |
| Total Supporting Households | 79 |
| <i>by Pre-Authorized Remittance</i> | 61% |
| <i>by Envelopes</i> | 23% |
| <i>by E-Transfer</i> | 16% |
| M&S Fund Supporting Households | 21 |
| Local Mission Supporting Households | 18 |
| Adherents | 34 |
| Adherent Children | 20 |
| Average Worship Attendance* | 51 |
| <i>In-Person</i> | 47 |
| <i>Live Online</i> | 4 |
| Unique Online Viewers per week | 36 |
| Online Views per Worship Service | 63 |
| Communion Services | 4 |

*Oct/Nov average participating in Worship Sunday morning.

Baptisms 4

Jan. 14 Dryden Grant Gerakopulos, son of *Ryan & Courtney Gerakopulos*
 July 7 Freya Vonne Gartner, daughter of *Matthew Gartner & Kristin Demeny*
 July 7 Travis Stone Harper, son of *Myles Harper & Kristin Demeny*
 Sept. 22 Tessa Christine Kelly Shaver, daughter of *James & Shauna Shaver*

Professions of Faith (Confirmations) 0

Marriages 1

June 1 Shanya Genesis Aguilar-Andrade & Carlos Nicholas Moreno Casaravilla

In Memoriam 7

Jan. 8 Allison Murphy
 Feb. 9 Alex Stahn
 June 21 Beverly Thompson*
 July 9 Connie Gerner
 Sept. 14 Marlene Burrows
 Oct. 22 Jean Hostein
 Nov. 28 Edith Ferris

*Adherent or Non-member

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

"Finding Inspiration Through Humility: The Power of Surrendering to the Holy Spirit"

In our journey of faith, we often find ourselves facing moments that demand profound wisdom or inspiration. Whether it's writing an Annual Report, preparing a sermon, or simply seeking direction in our daily lives, the pressure to produce something meaningful can be overwhelming. It's in these moments that we often discover a profound truth: our greatest breakthroughs come not from our own striving, but from a place of humble surrender.

Picture yourself in a car, wheels spinning frantically, axle-deep in mud. The more you press on the gas, the deeper you sink. This imagery vividly illustrates our human tendency to rely on our own efforts when faced with challenges. We push harder, we strain more, yet we find ourselves increasingly stuck. It's a frustrating and exhausting cycle that many of us know all too well.

But there's a beautiful turning point that occurs when we finally exhaust our own resources. It's in that moment of acknowledging our limitations that we open ourselves to something greater. As we cease our frantic efforts and quiet our minds, we create space for the Holy Spirit to work within us. This is where true inspiration begins to flow.

The apostle James captures this principle perfectly in his letter: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). This verse isn't just a pithy saying; it's a profound truth that can transform our approach to life and ministry. When we humble ourselves, admitting that the task before us is beyond our capabilities, we position ourselves to receive God's grace and guidance.

This principle doesn't just apply to individual struggles. In fact, it's the cornerstone of vibrant, Spirit-led community life. What I love most about Grace, is that I've experienced a church filled with humble saints, each quietly allowing the Holy Spirit to guide them into various forms of ministry. It's a beautiful tapestry of service, woven together by individuals who recognize that their contributions, however small they may seem, are vital parts of God's greater plan.

We are a community; you'll find us engaged in a myriad of meaningful activities:

- Listeners who create safe spaces for others to share their stories
- Faithful prayer warriors interceding for families in need
- Committee members working diligently behind the scenes
- Teachers pouring into the lives of children
- Volunteers reaching out to the homebound and isolated

These acts of service, and a million more, done with a humble heart, become a powerful conduit for God's love and grace. It's in this collective humility that the body of Christ truly comes alive, with each member playing their unique and essential role.

This approach to ministry and life stands in stark contrast to the world's emphasis on individual achievement and self-promotion. Instead of striving to be seen as the source of wisdom or strength, the beauty of this approach is that it relieves us of the crushing pressure to always have the right answers or to constantly produce profound insights. Instead, we can rest in the knowledge that God is the source of all wisdom and that He delights in working through humble, willing vessels.

As we embrace this humble posture, we find that inspiration comes in unexpected ways and at unexpected times. A casual conversation might spark a profound realization. A quiet moment of reflection could unveil a solution to a long-standing problem. Even in our moments of doubt or struggle, we may find that God is using these experiences to shape us and prepare us for future ministry.

Moreover, this approach to life and ministry is contagious. As others witness the peace and effectiveness that come from surrendering to God's guidance, they too are inspired to adopt a posture of humility. This creates a beautiful cycle of grace, where the entire community grows in its dependence on, and responsiveness to, the Holy Spirit.

As we embrace this way of living and serving, we'll likely find that the "mud" that once held us back becomes the very ground from which new life and ministry spring forth. Our moments of stuckness transform into opportunities for God's power to be displayed.

In the year ahead, let us remember that our greatest strength lies not in our own abilities, but in our willingness to humble ourselves before God. As we do so, we open ourselves to a wellspring of divine inspiration and grace that can transform not only our own lives but the lives of those around us. May we continually seek to be a community marked by humility, responsiveness to the Holy Spirit, and a collective commitment to allowing God's love to flow through us in countless, beautiful ways.

*Blessings and so thankful to be your Minister,
Rev. Glen Wells*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Welcome to the New Year and a big thank you to everyone who made 2024 a year to remember.

We are blessed to have Glen as our Minister and all of the people working and volunteering at Grace to make it a place we can call a second home.

As we look back on 2024 (and ahead to 2025), we can find peace in knowing that “*God’s Got This!*”

We learned about Joy in our sermons this year and together we can celebrate many wonderful successes as a church not only for our members but also in reaching out to the community. These successes include:

- ❖ Monthly Gracefull News and weekly Digging Deeper
- ❖ Prayer Cards
- ❖ Weekly Sunday School & kids time in church
- ❖ Family & Friends events including: Chili Cook-off (February), Advent Family Night (December)
- ❖ Lenten Bible Study – The Chosen Season 1
- ❖ Return of the Bells of Grace – including a Christmas performance
- ❖ Plant Sale (May)
- ❖ Yard Sale (June)
- ❖ Wedding at Grace – the first in several years
- ❖ Summer Camp at Grace (sold out very quickly) – Hometown Nazareth
- ❖ Summer Camp closing picnic with volunteers, campers and families
- ❖ New summer camp from the community happening at Grace (more families exposed to the Grace Community)
- ❖ Fellowship Hall & Parlour renovations
- ❖ Fair weekend parking
- ❖ Retirement of Daryl (& Margaret) Miller as Custodian
- ❖ Anniversary Sunday celebration
- ❖ Good Grief groups
- ❖ Christmas Market

We have much to be thankful for at Grace. We have a wonderful Minister, staff, volunteers and congregation. Combined we can be proud of our successes for God’s glory.

On behalf of Council, we thank you for all you do to make this a home for us and we look forward to making memories together again in 2025.

*Leigh-Anne Unrau
Chair, Church Council*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Grace United Church, Caledonia

Annual General Meeting – Sunday, February 25, 2024

1. Call to Order: Having given two Sundays' prior notice by announcement and email in accordance with The Manual, Chair Pat Ottaway-Bryan called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm in the Grand Room and invited Rev. Glen Wells to open with prayer.
2. Opening Prayer: Rev. Glen Wells
3. In-Memoriam Reading by Rev. Glen Wells from the 2023 Annual Report.
4. Attendance – Quorum was met with 37 present: Nancy Armstrong, Amelia Bentley, Rod Bryan, Keith Crawley, Marg Crawley, Audrey Derii, Alan Gallimore, Fran Gallimore, Robin Gauthier, Lorna Greenlees, Grant Howley, Bill Imeson, Donna Imeson, Sherry Insley, Marla Iyer, Bev Layden, Eva Lynn, Bruce MacDonald, Laurie MacDonald, Jean McClung, James McMillan, Reese McMillan, Paul Mitrovich, Jane Moerschfelder Pat Ottaway-Bryan, Diana Prince, Marion Richmond, Shirley Robson, Marie Salmon, Donna Scott, Emerson Shannon, Lynne Shipton, Roy Shipton, Joyce Smith, Marion Stoneman, Donna Tansley, Leigh-Anne Unrau.
Regrets: Marg Cross, Peggy Fox, Teresa Harrow, Janice Lanigan, Wayne Lanigan, Daryl Miller, Margaret Miller, Grant Tansley.
5. **Motion** to allow Adherents to vote. Moved by Rod Bryan, seconded by Marg Crawley. **Carried.**
6. **Motion** to approve the Agenda as circulated. Moved by Bill Imeson, seconded by Keith Crawley. **Carried.**
7. **Motion** to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2023 as printed. Moved by Bev Layden, seconded by Roy Shipton. **Carried.**
8. **Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting on January 14, 2024 as printed. Moved by Lynne Shipton, seconded by Donna Tansley. **Carried.**
9. Business Arising from the Minutes: James McMillan reported that Food4Kids Brant-Haldimand did not restore their charitable status and our funds were transferred to Food4Kids Hamilton as per last year's motion. This is part of the Local Missions giving.
10. **Motion** to accept the 2023 Statistics. Moved by Marg Crawley, seconded by Diana Prince. **Carried.**
11. Financial Reports:
 - a. **Motion** to accept the 2023 Certification report completed by Wayne and Janice Lanigan. Moved by Bill Imeson, seconded by Paul Mitrovich. **Carried.**
Bill Imeson reported Wayne and Janice Lanigan have passed on their gratitude to the Church Congregation and the Treasurer for having such clear records. It was a pleasure for them to review the records.
 - b. **Motion** to accept the Operating Fund Reports: Moved by James McMillan, seconded by Leigh-Anne Unrau. **Carried.**
James McMillan explained that page 14 of the annual report is one of the consolidated statements showing the total financial assets (excluding the real estate) of the church that is filed annually with the Canada Revenue Agency. In the eyes of the government and the national church, all of the groups at Grace are a single unified organization, and as such he has to consolidate all the finances each year and be reasonably sure everything matches up as he signs to guarantee their accuracy.

Grace United Church, Caledonia
Annual General Meeting – Sunday, February 25, 2024

On the operating side, the church did very well this year thanks to everyone's generosity significantly surpassing the projections based on past years, particularly with the call to support the Fellowship Hall renovation. While funds weren't spent exactly as expected a year ago, overall expenses stayed within budget, with all but break-even results.

- c. **Motion** to set the Mission and Service Fund Goal for 2024 at \$20,000, including UCW contributions. Moved by Marion Stoneman, seconded by Bill Imeson. **Carried.**
- d. **Motion** to accept the proposed monthly Local Missions for 2024 (the same as in 2023): Moved by Marion Stoneman, seconded by Jane Moerschfelder. **Carried.**
- e. **Motion** to accept the Trust Fund Reports: Moved by Keith Crawley, Trustee Treasurer, seconded by Donna Imeson. **Carried.**

Keith Crawley reported the Dorothy Smith estate was finally settled and funds received. The Wilson/Senn Fund will continue to support the Summer Camp. The Ron Smith window in the Narthex needs to be removed and the lead reinforced and the leaded stained-glass window above the doors on the south side needs to have a storm window applied to the outside for protection.

- f. **Motion** to accept the UCW Financial Report: Moved by Margaret Crawley, seconded by Grant Howley. **Carried.**

Marg Crawley reported that the fund for the Wesley Methodist Cemetery has run out and future expenses would need to be paid through the General Fund. The UCW generated \$15,000 through catering in the past year. Paul Mitrovich added that they were very good meals. Marg also confirmed that the UCW would be donating \$3,600 to the Mission and Service Fund again in 2024.

- 12. **Motion** to accept the Committee and Group Reports as printed. Moved by Roy Shipton, seconded by Amelia Bentley. **Carried.**
- 13. **Nominating Report:** Audrey Derii was very pleased to announce that members of the congregation had readily stepped up for vacant positions. She thanked Leigh-Anne Unrau (new Chair of Council) Marie Salmon (Christian Development) Sandra Morrison (Membership and Pastoral Care) Robin Gauthier (Chair of Worship & Music). Audrey also thanked Pat Ottaway-Bryan for her two years of service as the Chair of Church Council and also thanked Reese McMillan and Donna Imeson for their great work as the Christian Development Committee.
- 14. **Motion** that the proposed 2024 State of Officers and Committee Members be accepted as printed in the Annual Report: Moved by Audrey Derii, seconded by Paul Mitrovich. **Carried.**

15. New Business

- a. **Motion** to accept the Congregational Goal for 2024: **To measurably grow our church family by meaningfully engaging with the community in 2024.** Moved by Robin Gauthier, seconded by Leigh-Anne Unrau. **Carried.**
- b. A suggestion was made by Bruce MacDonald that there be a committee to make an event of the anniversary of the church (180 years) this year, by inviting former members to attend. After discussion a small committee was suggested consisting of Bruce MacDonald, Paul Mitrovich and Reese McMillan.
- c. Reese McMillan also suggested that we need to focus on bringing a younger demographic into the church and hopes more will be drawn with the VBS and BBQ after for the families.

Grace United Church, Caledonia
Annual General Meeting – Sunday, February 25, 2024

- d. **Motion** to accept the updated Grace Living Faith Story for 2024: Moved by Audrey Derii, seconded by Lynne Shipton. Carried.
- e. Visioning Committee - Roy Shipton: One year ago, we identified three things needed to have a successful vision for Grace:

Great Leadership

- A solid and engaged workforce (that's us)
- Engaging our congregation and community to bring glory to our Lord
We wrapped all that up with a **Challenge to Just Say YES.**
- Our faith leader, Rev. Glen Wells has really stepped up (Roy has never heard him say no!)
- he provided a series of sermons to explain how Just Say Yes will affect our future
- he led a five-week course on Grief in May
- he continues with a Tuesday morning deeper dive on Sunday sermons
- he led a 6-week Lenten Bible Study at people's homes. (Max Lucado)
- he provided full immersion baptism for those requesting it.
- he provided programming for the Good Friday Community Service
- being led by God to go to Korea to provide revival
- the use of social media videos to bring our message to the community
- he has made himself available for all events held at our church
- he just finished another Grief course for our community
- he just started a six-week Lenten course based on "The Chosen" series

Our Engaged Work Force

- people stepped up to take positions on our council
 - we provided a spaghetti Friday night meal and fellowship for our community
 - we hosted an advent family event, outreach soup lunch, and chili cook-off and games afternoon as a community event
 - we purchased name tags, and pads of paper with our logo on them
 - the stewards with support of our congregation have overseen many upgrades and improvements in the Fellowship Hall and the adjoining kitchen, while maintaining our budget.
- Our congregation continued its support with enthusiasm and spirit: the plant sale, the yard sale, the Christmas Market (way too many funeral teas) and more.
- The congregation of Grace has done the hard work in the past to make this Church strong and vibrant. We continue to need your many gifts to move our Church forward.

We need to become a sticky Church: (hard to leave once you get to know us)

New Initiatives

The new reality today is that those looking for a new church will look online for feedback from the community and this congregation.

Social media has become how many get their information. With this in mind, we would like personal feedback on our Church site from our Sunday services, our events or any future initiatives.

- Grace United Church, Caledonia
- **Annual General Meeting – Sunday, February 25, 2024**

- Rev. Glen Wells again will do his part by doing two or three more videos, inviting our community to attend.

Our Spring Challenge

This one is going take us out of our comfort zone. We will provide a card with spots for 5 checkmarks. If you accept the challenge, you take one of these cards, approach a friend, a family member, or a neighbour and let them know what your church means to you and invite them to join you one Sunday for a service, and maybe take them out to lunch.

Whether they say yes or not, that is a checkmark. If you finish the challenge, bring the card back to church and put it in the bowl provided. After the three-month challenge a card will be drawn for a great prize.

Discussion: Lynne Shipton suggested the motto “Do More in 24”

Bruce MacDonald also suggested that couples who have been married in the church could be invited back for a special service close to Valentine’s Day.

16. Congregational Concerns and Celebrations: Reese McMillan praised the minister, Rev. Glen Wells for his excellent children’s time during the services. Bill Imeson thanked Daryl and Marg Miller for their diligent care of the church building and Teresa Harrow for her care and concern and the joy she brings as the administrative assistant. He also thanked Marla Iyer for her musical direction of our services. Rev. Glen Wells thanked the congregation of Grace United Church for being such a warm and forgiving culture.
17. Announcements:
 - a. Please pick up your 2023 Tax receipts from the box near kitchen.
 - b. If visiting shut-ins please check with the office if there is anything to deliver.
 - c. Please sign up for Offering Recording.
18. Remarks from the Chair: Pat Ottaway-Bryan thanked Lynne Shipton for her years of dedication as chair of the Worship and Music Committee, especially over the years we went without a minister. She thanked Audrey Derii for her 5+ years of dedication on Council, including serving as chair and past chair. She thanked Marion Richmond for saying “yes” to being Council Secretary last year, keeping her in line and delivering great minutes. Pat also thanked Wayne Lanigan (who’s basking in the Florida sun with Janice) for stepping up last year and volunteering as Vice-Chair of Council. When she asked Wayne if he wanted to lead the review of the Remit (on establishing an autonomous national Indigenous organization in the United Church), he graciously accepted the task. Pat also thanked James McMillan for being her sounding board and partner in all the bureaucratic red tape. Lastly, Pat thanked Leigh-Anne Unrau for taking the leap and volunteering to take on the role of Council Chair, advising her she was only a call away.
19. Adjournment: 1:15 pm
20. Benediction: Rev. Glen Wells

Pat Ottaway-Bryan
Chair

Marion Richmond
Secretary

Grace United Church, Caledonia
Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 3, 2024

1. Call to Order – Chair Leigh-Anne Unrau at 11:50 am
2. Opening Prayer - Rev. Glen Wells
3. Attendance/Regrets - Quorum was met with 42 present: Nancy Armstrong, Amelia Bentley, Keith Crawley, Marg Crawley, Margaret Cross, Audrey Derii, Peggy Fox, Alan Gallimore, Fran Gallimore, Lorna Greenlees, Bill Imeson, Donna Imeson, Meredith Innes, Robin Kittle-Gauthier, Wayne Lanigan, Bev Layden, Eva Lynn, Jean McClung, Carolyn McDonald, Russ McDonald, James McMillan, Reese McMillan, Paul Mitrovich, Jane Moerschfelder, Joe Nelles, Shirley Ouellette, Diane Prince, Jean Rent, Marion Richmond, Carolyn Roberts, Rick Roberts, Shirley Robson, Marie Salmon, Donna Scott, Lynne Shipton, Roy Shipton, Joyce Smith, Donna Tansley, Leigh-Anne Unrau, Rev. Glen Wells. Online: Rod Bryan, Pat Ottaway-Bryan.
4. **Motion** to allow adherents to vote was made by Marg Crawley and seconded by Robin Kittle-Gauthier. **Carried.**
5. **Motion** to approve the agenda as shown was made by Bill Imeson and seconded by Marg Crawley. **Carried.**
6. Financial Update from the Treasurer (*James McMillan*): We are about \$10,000 dollars behind where we were this time last year. There was an issue with Tangerine Bank suddenly closing church bank accounts. Money has been recovered but a decision re: replacing the account is to come. There has been extra spending on redecorating the parlour and finishing up the Fellowship Hall renovation which is what has really used up funds this year as opposed to having a shortfall in regular operating costs. Expenses do continue to go up. Please make any changes to PAR amounts in writing, and request new numbered envelopes if you use them. Mission and Service monies are on track. \$300 was collected from the Loonies and Twonies campaign.
7. Appointment of Wayne & Janice Lanigan as Financial Reviewer(s) for 2024 - Bill Imeson explained the need to have our finances reviewed by others and nominated Wayne and Janice Lanigan. This was seconded by Lynne Shipton. **Carried.**
8. Nominating Committee (*Pat Ottaway-Bryan, Wayne Lanigan*), Get Rooted and Grow With Us. Like a garden that needs water, fertilizer and some TLC, so do our committees here at Grace. The idiom: many hands make light work. Share the load, if each of us would consider saying YES to just one event or join a committee then the workload would be lightened for everyone. Alone, we can do little, but together we can do so much, Wayne Lanigan spoke about the one year at a time commitment for positions and other members of each committee should be thinking of moving up to take on chair and secretary roles. Volunteers are needed for:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ministry & Personnel: 2 new members | Regional Council Rep: 1 new member |
| Missions & Outreach: 2 new members | Vice Chair: 1 new member |
9. Review of **Goals** for 2024 and Discussion of Proposed Goals/Visions for 2025 (Roy Shipton) Last year's vision was about reaching out in our community, Rev. Glen Wells put videos online inviting others to come and check us out. Many events were run with the community encouraged to join us. Our 'Get Rooted And Grow With Us' signs were put on almost every mail box in town. This will continue to be part of our vision for next year.

Grace United Church, Caledonia
Annual General Meeting – Sunday, November 3, 2024

We will be reaching out in the coming weeks to York United Church's congregation as their church will be closing at the end of this year. We will let them know that Grace is a loving, warm and spiritual church who would welcome them.

Get Rooted And Grow With Us – our 'catchphrase' for the coming year.

God encourages people to be in community. It's a place where they can bring their lives--- their hopes, Dreams, Doubt, and Joys... and share them with others. We have a number of these groups already in our church. Quilting group, Sisters group and coffee with Glen. These groups have grown spiritually and have formed deep friendships. Our vision is not however: breakfast with Glen, lunch with Glen, supper with Glen or worshipping your golf ball with Glen. He is only one man!!! Perhaps there are others in our congregation who would enjoy forming a group with like-minded people. Don't be afraid to approach other members with your suggestions.

In a recent study, people were asked what they looked for in a church... all of them agreed about one factor... the climate of the congregation, a church in which they can feel at home, where people are friendly, and feel at home, where people are friendly, and where there is warmth and a comfortable atmosphere. So, we would like to look inward this year, to both live and show our faith.

10. Congregational Questions/Concerns: Lynne Shipton wanted the congregation to know that there were only five members of the Visioning Committee so to represent them better, the members of the congregation are encouraged to give the committee any ideas they might have.
11. Upcoming Congregational Meeting for Approval of 2025 Budget: January 12 or 19, 2025.
12. Adjournment: 12:05 pm
13. Benediction – Rev. Glen Wells encouraged all to discern and come forward with ideas.

Leigh-Anne Unrau
Chair

Marion Richmond
Secretary

Our Mission
“To know, love and follow Jesus, gracefully.”

Grace United Church, Caledonia
Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 5, 2025

1. Call to Order (*Chair Leigh-Anne Unrau*) & Opening Prayer (*Rev. Glen Wells*) at 11:30 am.
2. Attendance: - Quorum was met with 39 present: Shanya Aguilar, Nancy Armstrong, Amelia Bentley, Rod Bryan, Keith Crawley, Marg Crawley, Peggy Fox, Al Gallimore, Fran Gallimore, Lorna Greenlees, Bill Imeson, Donna Imeson, Marla Iyer, Robin Kittle-Gauthier, Janice Lanigan, Wayne Lanigan, Bev Layden, Bruce MacDonald, Laurie MacDonald, James McMillan, Reese McMillan, Daryl Miller, Margaret Miller, Paul Mitrovich, Jane Moerschfelder, Carlos Moreno, Joe Nelles, Pat Ottaway-Bryan, Shirley Ouellette, Marion Richmond, Shirley Robson, Donna Scott, Emerson Shannon, Lynne Shipton, Roy Shipton, Gary Smith, Donna Tansley, Leigh-Anne Unrau, Rev. Glen Wells.
3. **Motion** to allow adherents to vote made by Marg Crawley, seconded by Donna Tansley.
Carried.
4. **Motion** to approve the agenda as shown, made by Pat Ottaway-Bryan, seconded by Donna Tansley. **Carried.**
5. Questions/Corrections to Congregational Minutes of Nov. 3, 2024 (*circulated by email*) - addition of Fran Gallimore to attendance list.
Motion to accept the minutes as amended made by Bill Imeson, seconded by Robin Kittle-Gauthier. **Carried.**
6. Budget Presentation (*James McMillan, Treasurer*). See attached. No questions arose.
7. **Motion** to approve the budget as presented made by James McMillan, seconded by Bill Imeson. **Carried.**
8. Nominating Committee Update (*Pat Ottaway-Bryan, Wayne Lanigan*)
Still Required: 1 Vice Chair, 2 members for Ministry & Personnel, and 2 members for Missions & Outreach.
9. Announcements/Reminders
 - a) *Committee roles & responsibilities can be found in the Grace Constitution on our website or in the Library.*
 - b) *Annual General Meeting Sunday, February 23, 2025 following Potluck Lunch.*
10. Adjournment at 11:50 am & Benediction by Rev. Glen Wells.

Leigh-Anne Unrau
Chair

Marion Richmond
Secretary

2025 OPERATING BUDGET

--- COMMITTEES & FUNDS ---

| All expense amounts are with charitable tax rebate included | 2025 BUDGET (LINE TOTALS) | --- COMMITTEES & FUNDS --- | | | | | | | | | | | TOTALS |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| | | General | Ministry & Personnel | Christian Dev. (Old Youth, Family Groups) | Wilson/Senn Fund (Summer Camp) | Worship & Music | Membership & Pastoral Care | Mission & Service Fund | Local Missions | Benevolent Fund | Small Groups (Crosses, Ministry, Study, Book, Yabovog) | Memorial Fund | |
| Weekly Offerings | 179000.00 | 155500.00 | | | | | 15400.00 | 8100.00 | | | | | |
| Other Donations | 4750.00 | 4000.00 | | | 250.00 | 500.00 | | | | | | | |
| Non-Receiptable Donations | 2525.00 | 1800.00 | | 150.00 | 200.00 | | | | 325.00 | | 50.00 | | |
| TOTAL GIFTS & DONATIONS | 186275.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 186275.00 |
| Groups within Grace | 5060.00 | 5000.00 | | | | | | | | | 60.00 | | |
| Rent | 19850.00 | 19850.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fundraising Activities | 11000.00 | 10800.00 | | | | | | | 200.00 | | | | |
| Government Grants | 7500.00 | 7500.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interest Revenue | 2800.00 | 1800.00 | | | | | 1000.00 | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 50.00 | | | | | | 50.00 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OTHER REVENUE | 46260.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 46260.00 |
| Total Income | 232535.00 | 206250.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | 450.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 16450.00 | 8625.00 | 0.00 | 110.00 | 0.00 | 232535.00 |
| Salary Employee Wages | 114030.60 | | 114030.60 | | | | | | | | | | |
| EI | 1879.76 | | 1879.76 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CPP | 4761.91 | | 4761.91 | | | | | | | | | | |
| UC Pension & Benefits | 18944.18 | | 18944.18 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Min. Study & Book Allowance | 1689.00 | | 1689.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Min. Cell/Net Allowance | 600.00 | | 600.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Travel Mileage | 3920.00 | 200.00 | 500.00 | | 220.00 | 3000.00 | | | | | | | |
| Meals & Accomodation | 500.00 | | 500.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contractors | 5300.00 | | 5300.00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Honoraria | 8418.00 | | | | 500.00 | 7418.00 | 500.00 | | | | | | |
| TOTAL HUMAN RESOURCES | 160043.45 | | | | | | | | | | | | 160043.45 |
| Utilities (Gas/Hydro/Water/Sewer) | 8500.00 | 8500.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Insurance | 11270.00 | 11270.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Repairs, Maintenance, Cleaning | 8990.00 | 8340.00 | | | | 650.00 | | | | | | | |
| Capital/Special Projects | 14835.00 | 13500.00 | | | | 1335.00 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OCCUPANCY | 43595.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | 43595.00 |
| Ministry Resources | 2385.00 | | | 430.00 | 675.00 | 1280.00 | | | | | | | |
| Licensing Fees | 460.00 | 270.00 | | | | 190.00 | | | | | | | |
| Consumable Supplies | 1725.00 | 675.00 | | 200.00 | 700.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | | 50.00 | | | | |
| Food Supplies | 2200.00 | 200.00 | | 300.00 | 1250.00 | | 150.00 | | 200.00 | | 100.00 | | |
| Subscriptions | 13.16 | | | 13.16 | | | | | | | | | |
| Training & Seminars | 200.00 | | | 200.00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Donations - Charities | 25500.00 | | | | 200.00 | | | 16450.00 | 8200.00 | | 650.00 | | |
| Donations - Non-charities | 1100.00 | | | | 600.00 | 300.00 | | | 125.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | | |
| TOTAL PROGRAMMING | 33583.16 | | | | | | | | | | | | 33583.16 |
| National Church Assessment | 8943.00 | 8943.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Church Telephone/Internet | 1600.00 | 1600.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Promotion & Website | 700.00 | | | | | 700.00 | | | | | | | |
| Office Equipment | 2300.84 | 2300.84 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Service Charges | 563.03 | 180.00 | 383.03 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 1960.00 | 610.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 100.00 | | 100.00 | | 50.00 | | 1000.00 | | |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION | 16066.87 | | | | | | | | | | | | 16066.87 |
| Total Expense | 253288.48 | 56588.84 | 148638.48 | 1193.16 | 4245.00 | 14923.00 | 800.00 | 16450.00 | 8625.00 | 0.00 | 1825.00 | 0.00 | 253288.48 |
| Income - Expense | -20753.48 | 149661.16 | -148638.48 | -1043.16 | -3795.00 | -14423.00 | -800.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -1715.00 | 0.00 | -20753.48 |
| | Surplus/Loss | | | | | | | | | | | | Surplus/Loss |

Budgeted amounts reflect known 2025 income/expense and adjustments to non-fixed amounts to reflect year-over-year trends while providing for a level of activity similar to 2024, including offering a free 5-day summer camp. Special projects include additional work in the parlour and provision for window coverings, bat assessment, refinishing the Grand Room floor, completing preventative repairs to aging organ components (approved/not finished in 2024) and utilizing the 2025 provincial security grant for churches. Full building insurance cost is included. Significant increases are known/expected for Internet services. A worst-case deficit of -\$20,636.43 results, continuing a normal program of activities with flexibility for emerging issues.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

2024 Certification Report

We have reviewed and performed certain procedures on the accompanying financial statements of the following groups at Grace United Church:

- Operating Funds (including Missions & Outreach)
- Trustees
- United Church Women

The financial statements include the respective balance sheets as at December 31, 2024, the income statements and the statements of fund balances for the year then ended.

Our review of the documentation to support the figures reported included the year-end reconciliation of the bank statements to the balance sheets, payroll statements, and cheque logs. We undertook testing and tracking of a sample of transactions, reviewing allocations for reasonableness, confirming donations were recorded and that payments were made as approved including salaries and benefits. Further we discussed the procedures in place and verified that payments were properly documented and cheques signed by two independent authorized individuals.

In common with many charitable organizations, Grace United Church derives most of its revenue from donations, the completeness of which cannot be fully verified. The congregation should be aware that since the Covid-19 pandemic, there are rarely volunteers to count the weekly offering, much of which has moved online and to monthly giving which greatly reduces the workload. The Treasurer has reported that over 97% of the offering in 2024 was received via cheque or electronic means, the deposit of which can be verified against bank statements if needed. Should donors have concerns, they are encouraged to consider using these verifiable means of giving. The church has always relied on donors to review their bank statements and tax receipts and report any concerns. We can confirm that the records reviewed were consistent with each other and the revenue presented reflects the amounts recorded by the banks and in the records of the church.

Revenue from the 2023-24 Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention grant was utilized in 2024.

Required annual filings have been submitted and the church's charitable registration is active.

Based on the work performed and discussions with the Treasurer we can report that the 2024 financial statements as presented are supported by appropriate documentation. The procedures used by the Treasurer are consistently applied and the information we require as a church can be readily produced.

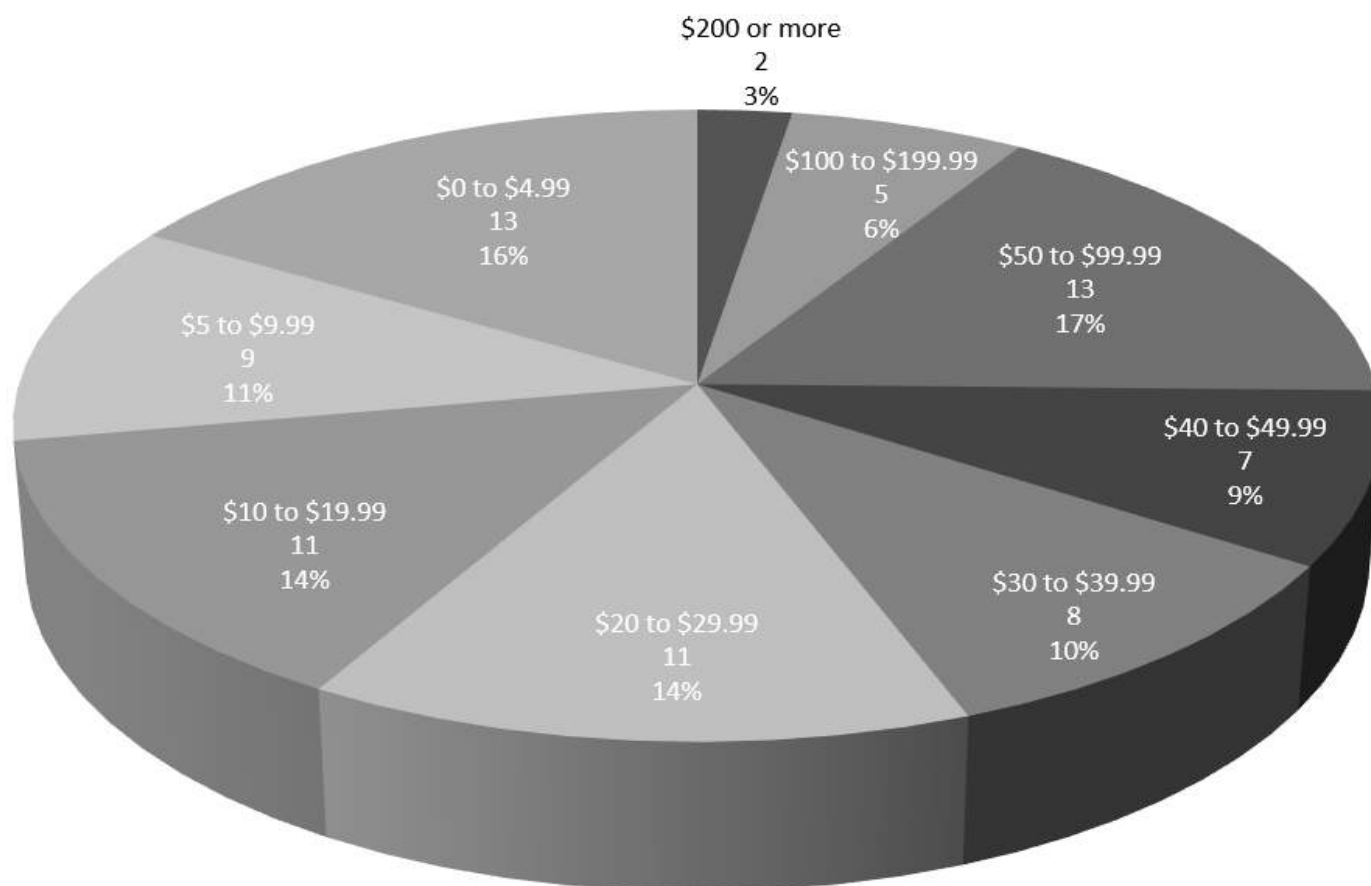
Please note that this report does not constitute an audit or a review per Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

Wayne & Janice Lanigan

Operating Funds - Comparative Income Statement

| REVENUE | 2024 Actual | 2024 Budget | 2023 Actual |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Gift & Donation Revenue | | | |
| Weekly Offerings | 184,975.00 | 171,200.00 | 177,468.75 |
| Other Donations | 17,647.57 | 3,700.00 | 14,924.92 |
| Non-Receiptable Donations | 2,513.50 | 2,525.00 | 2,937.18 |
| Total Gift & Donation Revenue | <u>205,136.07</u> | <u>177,425.00</u> | <u>195,330.85</u> |
| Other Revenue | | | |
| Groups within Grace | 10,050.00 | 650.00 | 5,720.00 |
| Rent of Facilities | 19,240.00 | 16,075.00 | 15,730.00 |
| Fundraising Activities | 10,906.02 | 10,000.00 | 10,920.61 |
| Government Grants | 15,000.00 | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Interest | 2,970.97 | 2,970.00 | 2,445.90 |
| Miscellaneous | 50.00 | 600.00 | 1,520.00 |
| Total Other Revenue | <u>58,216.99</u> | <u>37,795.00</u> | <u>43,836.51</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <u>263,353.06</u> | <u>215,220.00</u> | <u>239,167.36</u> |

Average Weekly Donation By Household



Based on 79 supporting households in 2024 (vs. 83 in 2023, 82 in 2022, 77 in 2021, 94 in 2020)
 How funds were given: 61% PAR, 20% cheque, 16% e-transfer, 3% cash.

Operating Funds - Comparative Income Statement

| EXPENSE | 2024 Actual | 2024 Budget | 2023 Actual |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Human Resource Expenses | | | |
| Salary Employees | 112,028.90 | 112,335.44 | 108,784.01 |
| EI Expense | 1,868.03 | 1,875.06 | 1,767.02 |
| CPP Expense | 4,125.09 | 4,044.41 | 3,539.61 |
| UC Pension & Benefits | 17,530.47 | 17,542.53 | 15,879.72 |
| Min. Study & Book Allowance | 1,380.58 | 1,640.00 | 1500.00 |
| Min. Cell/Internet Allowance | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Travel Mileage | 2,962.57 | 3,700.00 | 5,282.35 |
| Meals & Accommodations | 305.68 | 720.00 | 189.27 |
| Contractors | 5,300.00 | 5,300.00 | 5,400.00 |
| Honoraria | 6,954.45 | 8,769.00 | 6,754.87 |
| Total Human Resources | <u>153,055.77</u> | <u>156,526.44</u> | <u>149,696.85</u> |
| Occupancy | | | |
| Utilities (Heat, Hydro, Water) | 7,743.37 | 9,000.00 | 9,114.20 |
| Insurance | 12,151.35 | 10,500.00 | 8,199.00 |
| Repairs, Maintenance & Cleaning | 8,302.90 | 6,735.00 | 6,365.61 |
| Capital/Special Projects | 31,262.52 | 13,273.00 | 20,331.93 |
| Total Occupancy | <u>59,460.14</u> | <u>39,508.00</u> | <u>44,010.74</u> |
| Programming | | | |
| Ministry Resources | 2,045.84 | 1,910.00 | 1,353.22 |
| Licensing Fees | 434.50 | 420.00 | 671.00 |
| Consumable Supplies | 1,658.88 | 1,625.00 | 1,071.75 |
| Food Supplies | 1,975.31 | 2,400.00 | 1,591.01 |
| Subscriptions | 13.16 | 8.97 | 8.97 |
| Training & Seminars | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 |
| Donations to Charities | 26,917.77 | 23,700.00 | 26,458.01 |
| Other Donations | 400.00 | 800.00 | 325.00 |
| Total Programming | <u>33,445.46</u> | <u>31,063.97</u> | <u>31,478.96</u> |
| General & Admin. Expenses | | | |
| National Church Assessment | 8,134.00 | 8,134.00 | 7,084.00 |
| Church Telephone/Internet | 1,190.45 | 1,200.00 | 1,165.53 |
| Promotion & Website | 429.87 | 525.00 | 2,050.90 |
| Office Equipment | 1,873.85 | 1,933.84 | 1,933.44 |
| Financial Service Charges | 591.31 | 563.69 | 555.14 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 4,736.86 | 1,050.00 | 1,334.44 |
| Total General & Admin. Expenses | <u>16,956.34</u> | <u>13,406.53</u> | <u>14,123.45</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | <u>262,917.71</u> | <u>240,504.94</u> | <u>239,310.00</u> |
| NET GAIN/LOSS | <u>435.35</u> | <u>-25,284.94</u> | <u>-142.64</u> |

James McMillan
Treasurer

Operating Fund Income Statements

| | | Revenue | Expense |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 180th ANNIVERSARY | Receiptable Donations | 6,958.83 | |
| | Honouraria | | 400.00 |
| | Insurance | | 91.80 |
| | Miscellaneous Expenses | | 4,263.45 |
| | | 6,958.83 | 4,755.25 |
| | <i>Revenue – Expense</i> | 2,203.58 | |
| CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT | Receiptable Donations | 220.00 | |
| | Non-Receiptable Donations | 160.00 | |
| | Ministry Resources | | 1.73 |
| | Consumable Supplies | | 27.81 |
| | Food Supplies | | 304.04 |
| | Subscriptions | | 13.16 |
| | | 380.00 | 346.74 |
| | <i>Revenue – Expense</i> | 33.26 | |
| DRESSER MINISTRY | Opening Balance | 307.02 | |
| | Ministry Resources | | 318.66 |
| | | 307.02 | 318.66 |
| | <i>Balance Forward</i> | -11.64 | |
| MEMORIAL FUND | Opening Balance | 414.89 | |
| | Receiptable Donations | 50.00 | |
| | | 464.89 | 0.00 |
| | <i>Balance Forward</i> | 464.89 | |
| RENOVATION FUND | Balance Forward | 9,471.44 | |
| | Capital/Special Projects | | 5,802.54 |
| | | 9,471.44 | 5,802.54 |
| | <i>Balance Forward</i> | 3,668.90 | |
| SISTERS-IN-SPIRIT | Balance Forward | 335.00 | |
| | Transfer to General | 50.00 | |
| | Donations to Charities | | 380.00 |
| | | 385.00 | 380.00 |
| | <i>Balance Forward</i> | 5.00 | |

Operating Fund Income Statements

| | | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Expense</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| SUMMER CAMP (WILSON/SENN FUND) | Receiptable Donations | 290.00 | |
| | Non-Receiptable Donations | 313.00 | |
| | Honoraria | | 500.00 |
| | Ministry Resources | | 725.70 |
| | Consumable Supplies | | 754.50 |
| | Food Supplies | | 1,049.25 |
| | Donations to Charities | | 233.00 |
| | | <u>603.00</u> | <u>3,262.45</u> |
| | <i>Balance Transferred</i> | -2,659.45 | |
| WORSHIP & MUSIC | Receiptable Donations | 556.49 | |
| | Travel Mileage | | 2,962.57 |
| | Meals & Accomodations | | 154.45 |
| | Honoraria | | 6,054.45 |
| | Repairs & Maintenance | | 100.82 |
| | Capital/Special Projects | | 2,416.85 |
| | Ministry Resources | | 527.35 |
| | Licensing Fees | | 172.00 |
| | Donations – Non-Charities | | 275.00 |
| | Promotion & Website | | 429.87 |
| | | <u>556.49</u> | <u>13,093.36</u> |
| | <i>Revenue – Expense</i> | -12,536.87 | |

*Additional Funds/Groups with no activity in 2023 have been omitted. See Pg. 19 – Equity - Opening Fund Balances.

Missions & Outreach Fund Income Statements

| | | Revenue | Disbursement |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| MISSION & SERVICE FUND | Weekly Offerings | 16,142.00 | |
| | UCW | 3,600.00 | |
| | Receiptable Donations | 350.00 | |
| | Non-Receiptable Donations | 292.70 | |
| | Interest | 1,028.07 | |
| | Miscellaneous Revenue | 50.00 | |
| | United Church of Canada | | 21,462.77 |
| | | 21,462.77 | 21,462.77 |
| | Balance Forward | | 0.00 |
| BENEVOLENT FUND | Opening Balance | 372.39 | 0.00 |
| | Food Card Inventory | 0.00 | |
| | | 372.39 | 0.00 |
| | Balance Forward | | 372.39 |
| LOCAL MISSIONS FUND | Opening Balance | 105.00 | |
| | Weekly Offerings | 8,392.00 | |
| | Receiptable Donations | 70.00 | |
| | Fundraising Activities | 450.00 | |
| | Ministry Resources | | 61.15 |
| | Consumable/Food Supplies | | 256.79 |
| | Donations Out | | 8,567.00 |
| | | 9,017.00 | 8,884.94 |
| | Balance Forward | | 132.06 |

| | <u>Local Missions</u> | 2024 | 2023 |
|-----------|--|----------|----------|
| January | Alzheimer Society of Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk | 601.00 | 635.00 |
| February | West Haldimand Hospital & Healthcare Fdn. | 701.00 | 620.00 |
| March | Ryerson Camp | 771.00 | 630.00 |
| April | Cancer Assistance Program | 701.00 | 645.00 |
| May | Child & Family Services of Grand Erie | 696.00 | 625.00 |
| June | Community Living Haldimand | 661.00 | 610.00 |
| July | Caledonia & District Food Bank – School | 611.00 | 680.00 |
| August | Food4Kids Hamilton | 631.00 | *645.00 |
| September | Able Living Binbrook | 706.00 | 680.00 |
| October | Caledonia & District Food Bank | 891.00 | 645.00 |
| November | Wesley Urban Ministries | 746.00 | 845.00 |
| December | H-N Community Seniors' Support Services | 726.00 | 610.00 |
| | Caledonia Legion Poppy Fund | 125.00 | 125.00 |
| | | 8,567.00 | 7,995.00 |

**switched to Hamilton due to Brant-Haldimand not restoring charitable status per 2023 Annual Meeting motion.*

*James McMillan
Treasurer*

Operating Funds - Comparative Balances

| | <u>As at 2024/12/31</u> | <u>As at 2023/12/31</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | 20.00 | 0.00 |
| Libro Operating Account | 36,045.24 | 1,852.27 |
| Tangerine Savings Account | 0.00 | 34,270.70 |
| Total Cash | 36,065.24 | 36,122.97 |
| GIC 4.50% - Jan 16 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 4.50% - Mar 15 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 4.75% - May 15 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 4.80% - July 23 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 5.00% - Sept 23 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 5.15% - Nov 21 2024 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| GIC 5.15% - Jan 16 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| GIC 5.00% - Mar 15 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| GIC 4.90% - May 15 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| GIC 4.75% - July 23 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| GIC 4.50% - Sept 23 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| GIC 4.10% - Nov 21 2025 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Short-Term Investments | 30,000.00 | 30,000.00 |
| Libro Membership Shares | 255.00 | 244.00 |
| Accounts Receivable | -278.35 | -118.80 |
| HST Recoverable | 3,181.49 | 1,783.64 |
| Prepaid Expense & Deposits | 12,966.24 | 10,103.93 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>82,189.62</u> | <u>78,135.74</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | 21,552.23 | 14,010.40 |
| M&S Fund Payable | 2,175.00 | -859.70 |
| Conditional Government Grant | 0.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Key & A/V Deposits | 790.00 | 700.00 |
| TOTAL LIABILITY | <u>24,517.23</u> | <u>21,350.70</u> |
| EQUITY | | |
| Opening Fund Balances | | |
| Christmas Dinner | 450.84 | 450.84 |
| Library | 0.00 | 656.29 |
| Memorial | 414.89 | 479.00 |
| Benevolent | 372.39 | 372.39 |
| Local Missions | 105.00 | 0.00 |
| Dresser Ministry | 307.02 | 393.82 |
| Lunch Bunch | 0.00 | 397.95 |
| Sisters in Spirit | 335.00 | 0.00 |
| Woodworking | 0.00 | 817.40 |
| Renovation Fund | 9,471.44 | 0.00 |
| General | 45,780.46 | 53,359.99 |
| Total Retained Funds | <u>57,237.04</u> | <u>56,927.68</u> |
| Year Surplus (Deficit) | <u>435.35</u> | <u>-142.64</u> |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u>57,672.39</u> | <u>56,785.04</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | <u>82,189.62</u> | <u>78,135.74</u> |

The Board of Trustees

| | <u>As at 2024/12/31</u> | <u>As at 2023/12/31</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CIBC Chequing Account | 10,794.21 | 10,633.94 |
| Manulife 1.7% Savings Account | 17,781.23 | 17,323.93 |
| Total Cash | 28,575.44 | 27,957.87 |
| Northwest Funds NEI Ethical Select | 125,843.45 | 117,446.09 |
| IA Clarington Conservative SRI | 61,017.78 | 56,878.58 |
| BMO Covered Call Cdn Banks ETF | 45,718.31 | 38,658.51 |
| Equitable 3.55% - Apr 29 2024 | 0.00 | 10,000.00 |
| RFA Bank 3.57% - Apr 29 2024 | 0.00 | 90,000.00 |
| National Bank 4.63% - May 5 2025 | 40,858.00 | 40,858.00 |
| Cdn Western Bank 4.28% - Jun 16 '25 | 28,000.00 | 28,000.00 |
| Community Trust 4.5% - May 8 2026 | 70,000.00 | 70,000.00 |
| Haventree Bank 4.79% - May 1 2027 | 80,000.00 | 0.00 |
| RFA Bank 4.79% - May 1 2027 | 27,263.30 | 0.00 |
| Total Long-Term Investments | 478,700.84 | 451,841.18 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>507,276.28</u> | <u>479,799.05</u> |
| EQUITY | | |
| Opening Fund Balances | | |
| General | 465,394.76 | 407,805.32 |
| Wilson/Senn Legacy | 14,404.29 | 16,913.56 |
| Total Retained Funds | 479,799.05 | 424,718.88 |
| Year Surplus (Deficit) | 27,477.23 | 55,116.41 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | <u>507,276.28</u> | <u>479,799.05</u> |

Trust Fund Income Statements

| | | Revenue | Expense |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| GENERAL | Opening Balance | 465,394.76 | |
| | Interest Earned | 8,748.67 | |
| | Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments | 19,596.36 | |
| | Service Charges | | 67.80 |
| | Grace Summer Camp (Transfer In) | 2,659.45 | |
| | | 496,399.24 | 67.80 |
| | Balance Forward | 496,331.44 | |
| WILSON/SENN LEGACY | Opening Balance | 14,404.29 | |
| | Grace Summer Camp (Transfer Out) | | 2,659.45 |
| | Camper Support | | 800.00 |
| | | 14,404.29 | 3,459.45 |
| | Balance Forward | 10,944.84 | |

*Keith Crawley
Treasurer*

Grace United Church Women

MISSION/SUPPLY

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Opening Balance | 341.64 | Expenses | 1,255.15 |
| Donation | 417.72 | Balance December 31, 2024 | 504.21 |
| From General Fund | 1,000.00 | | |

ENHANCEMENT FUND

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 3,602.71 | Expenses | 3,237.90 |
| Pie Sales | 3,144.87 | Balance December 31, 2023 | 3,509.68 |

GENERAL FUND

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 9,234.95 | | |
| Catering/Funerals | 13,110.00 | Catering/Funerals | 3,798.65 |
| Christmas Market | 11,780.95 | Market expenses | 247.24 |
| Plant Sale | 1,819.05 | Transfer to Mission/Supply | 1,000.00 |
| Hot Dog Sale | 101.00 | GUC General Fund | 10,000.00 |
| Offering | 384.00 | UCC M&S | 3,600.00 |
| Donations | 180.67 | WHHH Foundation | 3,500.00 |
| HST Rebate | 280.25 | H-N Women's Services | 2,500.00 |
| AGM Registration | 60.00 | Senior Support Services | 2,000.00 |
| Cookbook Sales | 30.00 | N-H Community Hospice | 1,500.00 |
| Credit Union Interest | 20.70 | Community Living Haldimand | 1,000.00 |
| Credit Union Shares | 1.00 | Sleeping Children | 1,000.00 |
| TOTAL Receipts | 27,767.62 | Sensity | 500.00 |
| | | National Service Dogs | 500.00 |
| | | Helping Hands Haldimand | 1,500.00 |
| | | Postage, cards, gifts | 387.83 |
| | | AGM registration | 60.00 |
| | | Regional UCW assessment | 45.00 |
| | | Life Membership | 60.00 |
| | | Credit Union Service Charge | 7.50 |
| | | Misc. | 76.76 |
| | | TOTAL Expenses | 33,282.98 |
| | | Balance December 31, 2024 | 3,719.59 |

FUND SUMMARY

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| General | 3,719.59 |
| Mission/Supply | 504.21 |
| Enhancement | 3,509.68 |
| TOTAL | 7,733.48 |

LOCATION OF FUNDS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Libro Credit Union | 7,632.34 |
| Libro Profit Shares | 72.00 |
| Cash | 29.14 |
| TOTAL | 7,733.48 |

Marg Crawley
Treasurer

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Trustees

Members: George Greenlees (Chair), Keith Crawley (Secretary-Treasurer), Donna Imeson (Council Rep.), Kelly Bates, Jean Beattie, Bruce MacDonald, Bill Murray, Rick Roberts, Rev. Glen Wells

The Finance Committee consists of George Greenlees, Keith Crawley and Donna Imeson. The majority of the accumulated financial assets under the responsibility of the Trustees continue to be invested with Aligned Capital Partners Inc., and managed locally by Brad Armes. Meetings are held during the year with Mr. Armes to review the investments and to ensure the investments and the asset mix continues to be in line with the Grace Investment Policy.

The Trustees were delighted Grace's Summer Camp could again be supported through the Wilson/Senn Fund and will be again in 2025. As well this year, a grant was offered to four children to attend a Christian program in the community.

The Ron Smith stain glass window in the Narthex was repaired by Trillium Glass. The cost was \$1,017 (incl tax). The storm window for the half-moon window above the front doors was installed.

The Trustees continue to maintain insurance on behalf of the congregation through the General Insurance Plan for the United Church of Canada (UCC Protect), with Director's & Officers Liability insurance also provided by the United Church of Canada. The premiums are paid by the General Fund. Rental groups continue to be required to indemnify Grace United Church and provide proof of their own liability insurance as well as property if relevant.

*George Greenlees
Chair*

Membership & Pastoral Care

Members: Shirley Robson (Chair), Bev Layden (Secretary), Nancy Armstrong, Sharon Culp, Fran Gallimore, Sandra Morrison, Rev. Glen Wells

In 2024 we updated and advised Council of our input to policies that involved our committee.

We were very saddened this year by the passing of 6 members. We had one member transfer out. On a happier note, we had four baptisms, one marriage and three transfers in at Grace.

Our members continued their strong commitment to calling shut-ins in their homes and retirement residences. We continue to send cards to people in the congregation to let them know that we are thinking of them.

We are assisting in the planning of a Newcomers' Welcome Luncheon for January 26, 2025.

We give thanks to Rev. Barrie Bain for being on call during Rev. Wells' vacations.

*Shirley Robson
Chair*

Missions & Outreach

Members: Jane Moerschfelder (Chair), Peggy Fox (Coffee Convenor), Janice Lanigan, Teresa Harrow, Lynne Shipton (Missions Coordinator), Marion Stoneman (Wesley Rep.)

Chili Game Day was held on Sunday, February 4 at 3 pm. Table games, cards, etc. were played followed by a Chili Dinner. Marg Miller won the prize for the Best Chili! The free will offering was \$240.

Before the AGM on February 25, the committee looked after organizing the Potluck Lunch. We welcomed Lynne Shipton to the committee.

Thank you to Marion Stoneman for graciously being the Missions Coordinator for several years. Lynne Shipton has replaced Marion as Missions Coordinator.

April 21 we hosted a Potluck Lunch following the service.

The Haldimand/Norfolk Concert Band entertained a good crowd on Thursday, May 16. Free will offering was \$230 after splitting 50/50 with the band.

Sunday, June 23 the Church Picnic was held. Because of the weather we decided to set up in the Grand Room. Everyone enjoyed delicious hamburgers & hotdogs barbequed by chefs Bill Imeson & Daryl Miller, along with a variety of salads & desserts.

For Thanksgiving Sunday the congregation was asked for donations of loonies & toonies for "Food Security for Elders Up North" totaling \$292.

A donation of \$125 was made to the Branch #154 Legion Caledonia Poppy Fund for November 11. For the month of November the congregation was asked to donate a different item of food each week for the Caledonia & District Food Bank. This was very well received with a total of 261 pounds of food delivered to the Food Bank!

Marion Stoneman delivered gifts & monetary donations to Wesley which were very much appreciated for December.

December 1 & 8 donations for the Mitten Tree & White Gift Sunday were received. 61 pounds of non-perishable items plus a huge bag of mittens, gloves, socks, hats, scarves, etc. were delivered to the Food Bank!!

The United Church of Canada asked for volunteer hours for each committee member for 2024. Our committee had a combined 180 hours.

Many thanks to Teresa Harrow, James McMillan, Daryl & Marg Miller, Marla Iyer & Paul Mitrovich for keeping things running smoothly all year! Special thanks to Rev. Glen Wells for his enthusiasm & guidance!

The committee would like to thank the congregation for their continued support & trust for our Missions & Outreach programs locally & globally!

*Jane Moerschfelder
Chair*

Stewards

Members: Bill Imeson (Chair), Keith Crawley (Secretary), James McMillan (Treasurer), Lorna Greenlees (UCW Rep.), Audrey Derii, Teresa Harrow, Daryl Miller, Rick Roberts

Our committee had a big year in 2024! We installed the Fellowship Hall windows, the Parlour windows and we have the Kitchen windows on hand for spring installation. The small kitchen beside the Fellowship Hall has new flooring, lighting, countertop and paint, and the adjacent washroom was also similarly upgraded. Two new large smart TVs in the Fellowship Hall and the Grand Room will allow broadcast of the service to all areas, and of course allow us and our renters numerous other opportunities for use.

Our security system and cameras were upgraded as a grant covered the cost. We sourced new door locking systems and the grant money to pay for them, and they will be professionally installed shortly...making your phone, a fob, or a touchpad the way to get into Grace.

We are working on the old Parlour. New paint, new windows, modern furniture, and new decor should transform this area into one which everyone will want to use for small gatherings or meetings.

The situation with our tenants has been stable with the nice addition of Ladybugs Camp over the summer (they are coming back in 2025). We acquired two more school buses paying for parking to help with the revenue (we can herd them into the back corner of the lot for special events so please advise if your group needs the lot clear).

Outside, the biggest event was the Fair Parking which raised over \$9,300; it could not be accomplished without all of you who volunteered to help... our many thanks!

Otherwise outside we managed to trim the bigger trees, and, thanks to the Anniversary Committee, the smaller shrubs and gardens were trimmed! We acknowledge the excellent work of a couple of you who did early garden clean up in the spring.

A new barbeque awaits any upcoming functions. We also got the north side of the church power washed and the windows cleaned, removing about a million bugs!

As you can see a lot of physical work and running around went on and the vast majority of it was accomplished by committee members saving the church many thousands of dollars, as Rev. Glen Wells says, "There are many ways you can give."

We lost Daryl Miller as our Custodian and welcomed Paul Mitrovich to the job. Daryl will continue to do Stewards' work as he has faithfully for many years. The rest of the committee, James, Teresa, Audrey, Keith, Rick, Lorna and Glen are dedicated, opinionated, hardworking, innovative, and ready to have a laugh or two which makes this committee a joy to chair.

*Bill Imeson
Chair*

Ministry & Personnel

Members: Rod Bryan (Chair), Carolyn Roberts, Marie Salmon

There were no significant personnel issues in 2024.

Performance Reviews were completed for the Administrative Assistant (Teresa Harrow) and Minister (Rev. Glen Wells) during the month of October, and recommendations for compensation forwarded to Stewards for inclusion in the 2025 budget.

*Rod Bryan
Chair*

Visioning

Members: Roy Shipton (Chair), Audrey Derii, James McMillan, Pat Ottaway-Bryan, Lynne Shipton

Our Vision for Grace 2025

Last year's vision was about reaching out in our community. Rev. Glen Wells put videos online inviting others to come and check us out. Many events were run with the community encouraged to join us. Our 'Get Rooted and Grow With Us' signs were put on almost every mail box in town. This will continue to be part of our vision for the coming year.

We reached out to York United Church's congregation, as their church was closing at the end of 2024. We have let them know that Grace is a loving, warm, and spiritual church who would welcome them.

Get Rooted and Grow With Us

God encourages people to be in community. It's a place where they can bring their lives - their hopes, dreams, doubts, and joys - and share them with others.

We have a number of these groups already in our church. Quilting group, Sisters group, and coffee with Glen. These groups have grown spiritually and have formed deep friendships. Perhaps there are others in our congregation who would enjoy forming a group with like minded people. Don't be afraid to approach other members with your suggestions.

"A Vision Is A Future Destination"

First comes the vision, next the mission (the mission is a guiding light of how to get to that destination).

The vision of Grace United Church must be to discern God's vision for Grace. "THAT CAN ONLY BE DONE THROUGH PRAYER". Rev. Glen Wells' sermons this past fall were about listening for God. God talks to each and every one of us, as he guides us through our unique lives. The Visioning Committee needs all of you to pray and ask God for His vision for Grace United Church. Our committee is small, so we need you all to help ensure we are on God's path for Grace.

Please share your thoughts with our committee members - Rev. Glen Wells, Audrey Derii, Pat Ottaway-Bryan, James McMillan, Lynne Shipton, Roy Shipton.

*Roy Shipton
Chair*

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Representative: Marg Crawley

Regional gatherings were held in May and October by ZOOM. The annual meeting of three regions was held in Port Elgin in May and one could attend in person as well as by ZOOM.

Weekly newsletters are sent out...full of updates and programs available.

Reports were given to Council as information was pertinent.

Now the region is preparing to discuss proposals for the United Church General Council being held in 2025. These discussions will occur in February.

A second representative for Grace is needed. It does not require a lot of time.

Marg Crawley

Christian Development

Members: Reese McMillan (Chair/Church School Coordinator), Donna Imeson, Marie Salmon

The Christian Development Committee continues to seek to provide for the faith development of all members of the congregation at all stages of their faith journey, young, old, and in-between.

Our 2024 began with what is about to turn into a multi-year Lenten Bible Study. An enthusiastic group met weekly from February 15 to March 21 to watch and discuss episodes of season one of *The Chosen*, a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. This gave us a reason to add a large modern tv in the Fellowship Hall and we thank the Stewards for its timely installation and the added functionality it provides this room. A Maundy Thursday Seder potluck meal was organized to conclude the study. We will be continuing with season 2 of *The Chosen* for 2025 starting March 5.

Our annual Lenten Family Night was held March 5, 2024 in the Grand Room. The evening included a Lenten message (and donuts before dinner!) with Rev. Glen Wells, spaghetti, crafts, games, 15-hour-old baby goats thanks to Grant Howley, and time spent with family & friends. A similar Advent Family Night also took place December 3. All enjoyed a carol sing-along led by Lynne Shipton while we waited for pizza to arrive.

Rev. Wells took his *Good Grief* sessions on the road this year, running a series in the spring at the Community Support Centre. Another series was held at Grace in the fall, and with the positive feedback, this alternating pattern may continue in future. The *Digging Deeper* sessions also continued most Tuesdays – in the fall convincing him to do a deep dive into the book of Revelations.

Our outreach to families in the community through our annual Summer Camp was once again highly successful thanks to our many church volunteers who supported the vision of our camp coordinators, Donna Imeson and Gillian Street. 21 out of 26 campers from 2023 came back to learn about when Jesus was a Kid in *Hometown Nazareth*. After they shared the registration announcement with their friends, no advertising was needed as 35 children had signed up through our online form in about a day!

Rev. Glen Wells starred as the angel Gabriel for camp's morning Bible dramas. Campers discussed how God still shows up in our lives and learned how God loves and cares for us. And they (and our volunteer leaders!) took on the challenge of tie-dye t-shirts among other creative crafts. Grant Howley's goats made another appearance, and camp families raised \$233 to send to World Vision to purchase two goats for a needy family. We appreciate the continued support of the congregation providing not only countless hours of time, but also financial funding through the Wilson/Senn Bequest. Summer Camp 2025 will focus on Joseph's Incredible Journey in Egypt, for the first time running a full five days from July 7-11, and we will certainly be most grateful for your support again.

While our numbers continue to be small, Sunday School also remains important to providing an inviting, well-rounded family ministry at Grace. We resumed for the fall on September 8th learning about prayer and making a prayer sandwich. On December 22, we researched some familiar hymns and became brave enough to stand in front of the congregation to share some of the stories behind how they came to be. Sunday School wrapped up for the year with our annual pajama movie day in the Fellowship Hall. We continue to welcome new adult volunteers willing to assist in supervising and helping with the children's activities Sunday morning.

Our thanks to Rev. Wells for his continuing enthusiasm for finding additional ways to help all ages of our congregation travel further on their faith journeys. It is truly inspiring watching him roll with the punches and still managing to make a point each week for all of us to think about.

*Reese McMillan
Chair*

Worship & Music

Members: Robin Kittle-Gauthier (Chair), Marla Iyer (Secretary), Amelia Bentley (Lay Readers/Greeters/Prayer Cards), Wayne Lanigan (Outdoor Sign), Reese McMillan (PR Coordinator), Margaret Miller (Ad-hoc), Carolyn Roberts (Sanctuary Decorating), Donna Scott, Roy Shipton (Ad-hoc).

What a busy year! Lynne Shipton stepped down as Chair and Robin Kittle-Gauthier stepped up as Chair for 2024 and 2025. A big thanks goes out to Lynne for her years of managing the Worship and Music team! Donna Scott also joined in 2024.

Throughout the year, Rev. Glen Wells weekly led us through the themes of The Amazing Call of Jesus, The Four Stages of Christian Growth, We Choose Joy and God's Got This!

Palm branches were handed out to everyone present on Palm Sunday for the Palm Parade. Our Lenten Bible Study was The Chosen through Netflix, and Rev. Glen Wells led discussions about the life of Christ. The Bible Study Group organized a Maundy Thursday Seder Potluck Meal where all congregational members were invited. The sunlight shone strongly on Jesus' picture just before prayer which made the meal even more meaningful! The Caledonia-wide Good Friday Service was held at the Riverside Exhibition Centre. Easter Sunday Service was well attended. Communion was served at Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Communion was also available weekly after the service for anyone wishing it. Moving forward, the Antependia will match the themes during worship and will not necessarily follow the Lectionary.

Grace's 180th Anniversary Sunday was attended by approximately one hundred and fifty people. Grace's consistent strength in faith throughout the years highlighted the Service and luncheon at the Riverside Exhibition Centre afterwards.

The Blue Service was near the beginning of December where twenty candles were lit by individuals in memory of their loved ones.

Close to one hundred people attended the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Tea lights were handed out as we joined together in music for the celebration of Christ's birth.

2024 was blessed with the musical talents shared by Sarah Shelley, Riley Macnab, Faye Farrell and family, Lynne Shipton, Grant Howley, Whitney Augustine, Phyllis Bannerman, Nancy Bullivant, James McMillan, Zachary Robson, PJ Iyer and the Grace Bell Choir. Rev. Hugh Reid, Rev. Dr. Diane Walker, Art Duerksen and Rev. Bob Nightingale were some of Grace's guest speakers.

Weekly Worship Services continued to be available on YouTube and through YouTube Shorts. Rev. Glen Wells began using AI Technology to extend his worship messages into daily reflections and meditations on the Word by email to everyone on the mailing list. Rev. Glen Wells will continue to extend his messages into 2025 through technology. At the beginning of each season, Prayer Cards were given out to members to offer prayers for each other during daily spiritual reflections.

The Outdoor Sign Policy and Promoting a Fragrance-Sensitive Environment Policy were revised by the Worship and Music Committee and approved by Council.

The committee reduced and reorganized some of the quantity of stored music at Grace. Organizing will continue into 2025. Janine Denton began repairs on the organ and will continue repairs into 2025. Donegal Donkey began repairs and will be ready for Easter 2025.

I would like to thank our Worship and Music Committee Members for a productive year! Rev. Glen Wells, Marla Iyer, Amelia Bentley, Donna Scott, Carolyn Roberts and Wayne Lanigan (Margaret Miller and Roy Shipton ad hoc), and the many volunteers that made the year happen.

*Robin Kittle-Gauthier
Chair*

Anniversary Sunday ~ October 20, 2024

180 YEARS OF FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY

October 20th saw the celebration of 180 years in the life of Grace United Church in Caledonia. We were blessed to have so many current and former members join us for a wonderful service and the luncheon following at the Riverside Exhibition Centre.

The service was made so special by a number of memorable elements. The choir loft was full of present and returning singers. During the service we listened to Const. Jennifer Williams in Nova Scotia read scripture; as well as Gail Nicholson, the wife of the late Rev. Don Nicholson, read scripture and then reminisce about their time with our congregation. Marion Richmond, the daughter of Rev. William A. Gibb, led us in responsive prayer. We also welcomed back Rev. Bob Nightingale who shared his stories of his time at Grace United. Nancy Bullivant returned to play the organ, and Reese McMillan provided a slide show reviewing the history of Sunday School at Grace. At the luncheon Eleanor Pardoe recounted stories of her family history of several generations of her grandfathers who were rural preachers of the early Seneca Methodist Church that became Grace United.

We must say thank you to Bruce MacDonald and his Anniversary Committee who took the lead in organizing this very special celebration. We are very grateful to all the folks who worked behind the scenes and to those who financially supported the event.

It was a day of good memories and fellowship! If you missed it, the service can still be accessed on YouTube.

-From the November 2024 Gracefull News Newsletter

The Anniversary Committee extends thanks to the following donors whose support ensured the success of the day: Nancy Clark, Pat Ottaway-Bryan & Rod Bryan, Jim Parke, Jim Jenkins (in memory of Lloyd & Lena), Roy & Lynne Shipton, Ellen Brenzil, Richard Fox, Russ & Carolyn McDonald, Keith & Marg Crawley, George & Lorna Greenlees, Meredith Innes, Daryl & Marg Miller, James & Teresa Harrow, Bruce & Laurie MacDonald.

Thanks to Marg Crawley for negotiating and arranging lunch and cake, and to Keith Crawley for arranging insurance. Thanks to everyone who contributed. Special thanks to committee members Reese McMillan, Paul Mitrovich, and Rev. Glen Wells. Extra thanks to Marla Iyer & Marie Salmon for their effort on the choir, to Teresa Harrow for her assistance, and to the Gracefull News Newsletter Committee for the above write-up. Hope I haven't missed anyone... thanks again!

*Bruce MacDonald
Chair*

GRACE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

2024 was a very lucrative year for the UCW. We did a lot of catering, made and sold a lot of pies and had another wonderfully successful Christmas Market. This is how 2024 unfolded for the UCW.

Eva Lynn who has been the UCW President for the last 20 years decided it was time for her to step back as she will be 90 this year. Donna Tansley agreed to be President. The Grace UCW Slate of Officers was sent to the UCW Horseshoe Falls Regional office consisting of President Donna Tansley, Vice-President Lynne Shipton, Secretary Bev Layden, and Treasurer Marg Crawley.

The Grace Quilters were back quilting after the Christmas break and extra thanks to Jennie May Wilson for preparing and delivering the quilts. The quilts are sent by the Mennonite Central Committee around the world. The UCW catered a funeral in January.

At our February meeting we made a Valentine craft by framing a button decorated hymn music sheet. There were many beautiful works of art. The group catered to the Caledonia's Men's Club and the Quilters Group. At this time, we started to record all our volunteer hours as requested by the United Church of Canada. Our March meeting had Pat Ottaway-Bryan show us how to declutter our spiritual clutter as well as the clutter in our homes and lives. The Quilters had a catered meal, and pies continue to be sold.

April's meeting had a gardening theme presented by Bev Layden which included fun and crazy facts on plants, the health and spiritual benefits of gardening and an enjoyable gardening quiz. Marg Crawley reported on the UCW Horseshoe Falls Regional Annual Meeting held in Burlington. It was noted that the number of UCW units keeps diminishing as churches close down or attendance drops off. The UCW sent our \$3,600.00 allocation to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

In May the UCW met at the Community Support Centre on Inverness Street in Caledonia. We learned of all the programs offered there and toured the Food Bank, the rooms occupied by Helping Hands Haldimand, saw where Inclusions operates, the 55+ Wellness Room and the beautiful kitchen. There was a 100th birthday party for Bob Hoover on May 4th, a successful plant sale held at the church May 18th, as well as the Men's Club and Quilters again appreciating catered meals. A new freezer needed to be purchased to store our pies.

There was no formal meeting in June, however the women enjoyed an outing to Paris to have lunch at Stillwaters Restaurant and we did some shopping. We also catered another funeral and sold hotdogs and drinks at the Sisters-In-Spirit Church Yard Sale held June 1st. Fruit pie making began with rhubarb first followed by cherry, blueberry and elderberry throughout the summer. There was a catered funeral in June, and in July many women volunteered at Grace's Summer Camp July 2nd to 5th. Grace held another Funeral Tea in July.

September started off with another funeral reception and an apple pie making bee. A meeting for the upcoming Christmas Market was held and the Grace Quilters continue making quilts. We all learned something from a discussion of Women's Truisms at our September's monthly meeting.

The Men's Club had another catered meal in October and unfortunately there were two more funeral receptions. Meat pie making bees were held to get ready for the Christmas Market. As October 20th saw Grace Caledonia have its 180th Anniversary Service and Reception, the Grace Quilters put some of the quilts made the past year on display in the Sanctuary. We attempted two Christmas crafts at our October meeting and many thanks to Lynne Shipton for bringing us unique craft ideas all the time.

November 16th we held our Christmas Market. Decorating the church and a butter tart making session was done the week leading up to the Market. Another wonderful Market saw much on display including baked goods & preserves, crafts & décor items, fruit & meat pies, greenery, puzzles & books, silent auction items, surprise packages and treasures, all for the community to purchase. The Tea Room had a lot of visitors. Compliments came in on how well everything looked and how well the event was run. The UCW thanks all those who helped by donating goods as well as their time volunteering where needed. The whole congregation steps up for this event. At our November meeting it was decided that nine charities as well as Grace's General Fund would receive \$24,000.00 from proceeds from the Market and all the other fund raising done throughout the year; our biggest donation amount ever. November also saw the UCW honour Eva Lynn with a well deserving Lifetime Award Pin and Certificate for all her years of dedicated service to our church and the UCW.

In December the UCW catered the Retired Teachers Association noontime turkey feast, and our group had an outing to Stacked for lunch instead of a regular meeting. We hand-delivered Christmas cards to our senior congregation members as there was a postal strike ongoing. We also gave Thank You gift certificates for Jones Bakery to our dedicated church staff. We really appreciate all the staff do for our church.

The UCW continues to send Get Well, Sympathy and Special Birthday and Anniversary cards to our congregation throughout the year. The UCW still meets the last Monday of the month and all women are always invited to attend whenever they can. The Grace Quilters quilt every Tuesday and we still collect goods such as old eye glasses, used postage stamps, pop tabs and milk bags. We also want to thank everyone in the congregation for their continued support with all our activities whether it be help with catering, kitchen goods and cleaning, quilting supplies, pie making bees or our Christmas Market. Many hands make work light and good fellowship is a wonderful thing.

*Bev Layden
Secretary*

UCW Supply & Social Assistance Report

82 Quilts were sent to the Mennonite Central Committee in Waterloo (these quilts done by the Grace Quilters are sent around the world). Over 20 crocheted blankets were sent to the Women's Shelter in Simcoe for gifting.

Items Still Collected by the Congregation:

- Pop and Beer top tabs sent out by Wayne Lanigan
- Postage stamps, religious books and magazines delivered by Fran Gallimore
- Old eye glasses delivered to a Caledonia Optometrist for use in other countries
- 9"x12" knitted rectangles given to St. Paul's Anglican Church Prayer Shawl Group to be made into blankets for Warm Up Canada
- Milk Bags given to Nancy McBride at St Paul's that are made into ground sheets
- Egg cartons are needed at the Food Bank

Thanks to everyone for recycling these goods so that they are saved from the landfill

*Bev Layden
Secretary
& Jennie May Wilson
Convener*

CONGREGATIONAL GROUPS

Dresser Ministry

The Dresser Ministry continues to assist those in need. We provide essential items when called to do so.

The focus has been to assemble baby hampers for the Caledonia Pregnancy Care Centre. The committee gathers and stores items for children from birth to 12 months. This year we put together 10 hampers.

We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Shirley Robson

Sisters-In-Spirit

Mission Statement:

To love and support each other through fellowship, fun and outreach.

Our Sisters-In-Spirit group, which has been together for 11 years, has a membership of about 16 women. In February of 2024 we had our Planning Meeting where we listed activities we would like to do for the year. We also discussed what **Fundraisers** and **Community Outreach** we would like to do.

We agreed that we would continue to be responsible for the Yard Sale (Saturday, June 1st) as our church fundraiser. We also agreed that we would like to continue to support the Women's Shelter (perhaps filling large tote bags – similar to what we did with the purses last year). We would also continue to help with the 'Welcome Lunch' at Grace.

In March, we had an afternoon of 'Board Games with Finger Food'. In April, we met in the Library where we had a bag lunch, followed by making 'Overhang Bookmarks'. Since May was already going to be busy with the Garden Sale, we opted not to have a meeting; however, we sold pots and garden memorabilia at the sale. In June, we visited the Whispering Gardens (near Boston, Ontario). In July, the Tea Room in Sparta was the perfect venue for visiting with Darlene Aldridge. In August, we had 'Games & Snacks' in the Fellowship Hall. In September, we had loads of fun with our 'Looney Auction', which was held in the Fellowship Hall. We made a profit of \$50, which we donated for new name tags. Although October was booked for us to visit 'the Watering Can', we cancelled that excursion so we could attend Austin Layden's Celebration of Life. At our November meeting we collected 13 purses, which were jam-packed with personal care items, for the Women's Shelter. Of course, our December meeting would not be complete without our Christmas Party, which included Chinese food for lunch. Everyone brought a Christmas ornament to trade.

All our gatherings include a Devotional, and we always have fun. We have plenty of room in our hearts for any woman who might be interested in joining us for fellowship and friendship. Give us a try.

Pat Ottaway-Bryan

The Bells of Grace

As promised in the last three Annual Reports, we are back and absolutely ecstatic about it!

The Bells of Grace have had quite the change in faces over the past year. In the spring, we were thrilled to welcome back two of our veteran bellringers, Susan MacDonald, after a short hiatus, and Marion Richmond, after having not played in our handbell choir for several years. We were also most pleased to have Jean Beattie and Sandra Salerno join our ranks as new members of the Bells of Grace. Ruth Lewis also graciously agreed to offer help, as a substitute, as did a friend of Jean Beattie's, Cheryl Coate.

With winter holidays interspersed, we began an intermittent practice schedule on February 8, 2024 and played "live" for the first time in four years on Sunday, May 5, 2024. (I checked back to find that our last live performance was Sunday, March 1, 2020, just before the province went into lockdown). As it turns out, having Cheryl Coate as one of our very willing and talented substitutes, was extremely fortuitous. When one of our bellringers, Patricia Timson, became unable to continue, Cheryl stepped in, at a moment's notice and with just one practice to go, and flawlessly played our May 5th performance.

In the fall, when planning for a Christmas performance, we were faced with another membership challenge leaving us with quite a hole in our ranks. Three more of our valued bellringers, Clare Price, Marion Stoneman and Judy Munro, were unable to return. Thankfully, Cheryl Coate came on as a "regular" and we were very fortunate to add three new members to our handbell choir, Arlene Fox, Sandra Morrison and Eleanor Pardoe.

When we began our Christmas practice schedule, half of our handbell choir had never seen Christmas handbell music! Beginning on November 14th, we had five practices (with only two 90-minute practices where everyone was able to be there for the full practice!). It was a whirlwind of new learning with our veteran ringers, mentioned above, and those dedicated veterans not yet mentioned (Margaret Miller, Mary Lee Webb, Carolyn Roberts and Meredith Innes) working together with our new bellringers to offer assistance and support.

After a celebratory Christmas gathering on December 12th, these twelve talented, hardworking and conscientiously committed individuals performed five Christmas selections during Grace United Church's service on Sunday, December 15, 2024. I am very proud of all of their efforts that resulted in our first "live" Christmas performance since December 2019 - five years ago!!! It is truly a blessing to hear those handbells ring again and to work with such an outstanding group of people!

A BIG thank you to everyone at Grace United Church for believing in us and being so receptive to any and all requests in order to facilitate our return to handbell ringing. You helped make this happen! Hopefully, there will be no stopping us now!

Ellen Brenzil
Director

Wesley Methodist Cemetery

Community members continue to offer volunteer hours with the Grace United Church Caledonia Old Methodist Cemetery Restoration Committee. The committee will be completing its three-year community partnership in June 2025 with the County of Haldimand whereby the county partially reimburses the church for their expenses and their recorded volunteer hours.

On June 4th Bill Young, Roman Wasylyk and Kathryn Kennedy, a Find a Grave volunteer as well, completed 12 hours cleaning headstones and finding places for headstone pieces with “re-claimed” headstone “puzzles”.

On September 10, Bill Young, Harland Young, Kathryn Kennedy, Dan Young and Marie Salmon volunteered for 31 hours. The remaining headstones were cleaned at the cemetery. The headstones of Ellen Patterson and Elizabeth Ferris were brought to the surface and cleaned. The 18 headstone bases were catalogued so that they can be part of a conversation with the County of Haldimand, the Cemetery Committee, and a professional cemetery restorer about what to do with them to use and/or remove them from the cemetery.

Throughout 2024, Kathryn Kennedy has donated many extra hours taking current photos of the cleaned headstones at the cemetery and posting these new photos on the Find a Grave site. Many memorials have had extra information added by Kathryn which has promoted the restoration efforts at the cemetery.

Marie Salmon is a 20-year COMC restoration committee member. Marie continues to be the record keeper for the Church-County partnership.

County of Haldimand staff, Sheryl Sawyer and Liam Morin, have been informed about the 2024 progress at the cemetery by the Restoration Committee and current and future needs of the cemetery.

Moving forward the group still has goals to:

- work with the County of Haldimand to remove the headstone bases that are not being used, as well as the marble slabs and old cement curbs currently stored at the front of the cemetery near the old fence line to enhance the look of the cemetery;
- work with the County of Haldimand to replace the fence placed along the eastern property line;
- continue to encourage the County of Haldimand to ensure grass maintenance up to the eastern property line;
- continue to promote the actions of the committee with COMC neighbours Mary Jo Albanese-Glauser and Jim Hutton;
- continue research to find living descendants to be aware of and contribute to the future restoration of the cemetery by building on the success of the BOGLE family monument restoration;
- to continue to develop a new transcription of the cemetery identifying the current headstones and their location;
- to continue to find local community groups and/or members who will continue the restoration of the cemetery and to make this restoration a County of Haldimand priority especially since the Grace United Church Restoration Committee may soon be dissolved.

Bill Young

Grace United Church - Caledonia Old Methodist Cemetery Restoration Volunteer

NOMINATING REPORT

Grace United Church Council & Committees – 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Executive: <i>Chair</i> – Leigh-Anne Unrau <i>Vice-Chair</i> – <i>Open Position</i> <i>Secretary</i> – Marion Richmond <i>Treasurer</i> – James McMillan <i>Past Chair</i> – Pat Ottaway-Bryan <i>Clergy</i> – Rev. Glen Wells | Membership & Pastoral Care: <i>Chair</i> – Shirley Robson <i>Secretary</i> – Bev Layden Nancy Armstrong Sharon Culp Fran Gallimore Sandra Morrison |
| Board of Trustees: <i>Chair</i> – Donna Imeson [^] <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> – Keith Crawley <i>Clergy</i> – Rev. Glen Wells Kelly Bates Jean Beattie George Greenlees Bruce MacDonald Bill Murray Rick Roberts | Worship & Music: <i>Chair</i> – Robin Gauthier <i>Secretary</i> – Marla Iyer Amelia Bentley Wayne Lanigan Margaret Miller (<i>Ad hoc</i>) Carolyn Roberts Donna Scott Roy Shipton (<i>Ad hoc</i>) <i>Public Relations Coord.</i> – Reese McMillan |
| Christian Development: <i>Chair</i> – Reese McMillan <i>Secretary</i> – TBD Donna Imeson Marie Salmon <i>Church School Coord.</i> – Reese McMillan | Ministry & Personnel: <i>Chair</i> – Rod Bryan <i>Secretary</i> – TBD Wayne Lanigan* Shirley Ouellette* Carolyn Roberts Marie Salmon Donna Scott* |
| Missions & Outreach: <i>Chair</i> – Jane Moerschfelder <i>Secretary</i> – TBD Teresa Harrow Janice Lanigan Marion Richmond* <i>Coffee Hour Convenor</i> – Peggy Fox <i>Missions Coordinator</i> – Lynne Shipton <i>Wesley Rep.</i> – Marion Stoneman | Stewards: <i>Chair</i> – Bill Imeson <i>Secretary</i> – TBD <i>Treasurer</i> – James McMillan Keith Crawley Audrey Derii Teresa Harrow Daryl Miller Rick Roberts <i>U.C.W. Rep.</i> – Lorna Greenlees |
| U.C.W. Representative: Bev Layden | Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Reps.: Margaret Crawley <i>Open Position</i> |
| Archives: Sisters In Spirit | Visioning: <i>Chair</i> – Roy Shipton Audrey Derii Lynne Shipton James McMillan Rev. Glen Wells Pat Ottaway-Bryan |

*new nomination to committee for 2025 ^new to position for 2025

TBD – To Be Determined

Additional nominations may be presented from the floor during the Annual Meeting.
 Contact any Chair or consult the Grace Constitution at graceunitedcaledonia.com/documents
 to learn how these positions and committees contribute to the life of our church.
 Big or small, there is some role for everyone!



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Guided by our Mission:
"To know, love, and follow Jesus, gracefully."

