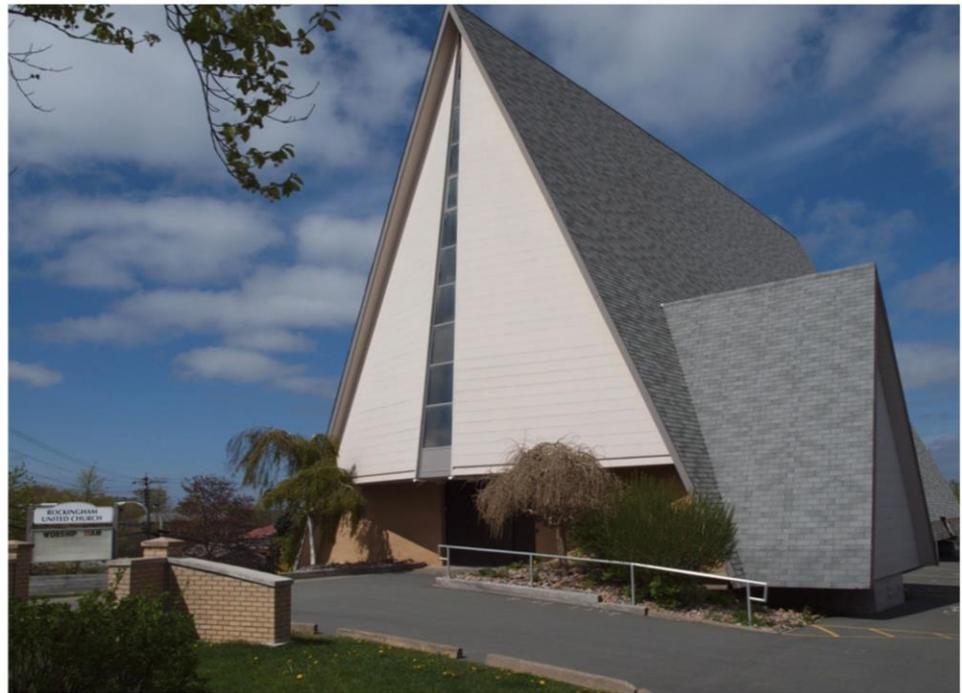




*Moved by the Winds of God
Bearing Gifts of Faith,
Respect and Peace
Charting a Course for Life*

Rockingham United Church Annual Report



July 2019 – June 2020

12 Flamingo Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3M 1S5

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MINISTER'S REPORT

This has been one strange year for Rockingham and for the world. I have been with you for 8 months now, and am pleased to call Rockingham home. You have all made it so easy to fit into the church community. Thank you all! I have especially loved working with the team. Kathy, Wendy and Sylvia are all such gifted co-workers with such great ideas.

12 months ago Diane Tingley wrote a lovely report on all of the gifts she saw in our church, and I would add a huge AMEN to all of them. I want to add another one. Here, I also see people who are so incredibly resilient in the face of endless storms, and then this lockdown. Thank you so much for your patience as we learn new ways of being a church while flying by the seat of our pants. Thank you for the calls many of you have made to people in the church who might have fallen between the cracks, or to people who have drifted away from us but are still in our hearts. Thank you for finding ways to continue to be the church while our building is closed.

My friends, our church has lost both givings and rental income. This is going to be a difficult year. We don't know how deep the emotional and spiritual impact of Covid-19 will be on our community either. I would ask each of you to please hold the church community as well as our interfaith and social outreach partners in prayer. We are going to need to draw on all those gifts and skills that this church has been nurturing over the years to maintain our community of faith well, and later to rebuild ourselves and to be part of the recovery of the community around us.

We are the church. We are people who love God, who love one another, and who have always stepped up to be a strong community. Hold onto your faith, my friends. We are loved by God and nothing will ever change that.

Rev. Sarah Reaburn

COUNCIL REPORT

Ministry: Rev. Sarah Reaburn; Chair: Joanne Perry; Chair Designate: Dianna Prest; Secretary: Nancy Lowery; Treasurer: Helen Doane; Trustees: Gary Wilson; Building & Property: Colleen Rollings; Christian Development & Education: Wendy Bona; Membership Relations: Mary Lou Evans Isaacs; Ministry & Personnel: Gaye Wishart; Outreach: Terri Billard; Pastoral Care: Eleanor King; Stewardship: Sandra Taweel; United Church Women: Sharon Ernst; Worship: Heather McLearn; Region 15 Reps.: John McLearn, Brenda Munro

While contemplating the very different world that we now find ourselves in and thinking about how to compose this report, I found a Bible quote from Deuteronomy (31:8) that is as relevant to us today as it was when it was written: 'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.' Through every trial we face in the coming months and years, we can take comfort from our belief that God walks alongside us all.

The beginning of September 2019 was a very special time for RUC as we welcomed our new Minister, Rev. Sarah Reaburn, into our church and our lives. The first milestone event of the new church year was Rev. Sarah's Covenanting Service in October, which formalized her

appointment and affirmed the ministerial relationship between Rockingham United Church, Region 15 and the United Church of Canada.

With the commitment, dedication and hard work of all of our staff, committees and members of the congregation, we were able to enjoy wonderful choir concerts and youth events, delicious barbecues and lunches, shared gatherings and worship opportunities and Christmas season celebrations with its special services and receptions. I also want to recognize again the commitment of our Building and Property Committee who, under the leadership of Colleen Rollings, ensured that we had a new church roof and new lighting in the Sanctuary. You will find more details and information about the work of all of our amazing committees and groups and I encourage you to take time to read about their accomplishments.

We entered 2020 with resolve and optimism and held several events at the church during the first two months of this new decade, including a variety show, soup luncheon and our annual pancake supper and bake sale. Council also held a retreat in February to consider short and long-term goals and our way forward. However, when March arrived our church lives and our personal lives were turned completely upside down as we were forced to adjust to and live alongside a world-wide pandemic. Yet our staff, leaders and volunteers have never faltered in their efforts to keep our church family present and hopeful as we adapt to worshiping from home while being connected through technology. We are truly blessed as we remain together in faith and move forward together in spirit!

Finally, I hope and pray that even though many of us are unable to work at this time because we have been laid off or have lost jobs or own businesses that have been forced to close, that we are still able to hold in our hearts and minds the very real plight of the marginalized, the hungry and the needy in our province, country and the world. These people are now struggling more than ever to survive, and they depend on our prayers, our help and our compassion. Much hard work, along with difficult decisions, will follow of course as we re-focus and look for ways to help ourselves and our church to get back to whatever our 'new normal' is going to be. But with God in our corner, and each and every one of us continuing to serve with loving hearts and willing hands, I know that we will succeed.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Perry, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The members of the Board of Trustees consisted of the following with the terms of office dates. Each term is five years.

Santosh Lall (second term expires June 2023) recording secretary

Gary Wilson (second term expires June 2023) chairperson

Donna Richards (second term expires June 2023)

Janet Mosher and (second term expires June 2023)

Rick Lowery (first term expires April 2021)

Doug Chaytor (first term expires October 2021)

Craig Sutherland (first term expires June 2024)

There were no changes to the membership of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees (BOT) held three meetings during the last 12 months. The BOT continued to follow the checklist outlined in the United Church Trustees Handbook of Accountabilities (2013), particularly checklist

items that are relevant to Rockingham United Church (RUC) such as insurance, trusts and property.

A separate meeting was held with Colleen Rollings (Chair of Building and Property) to discuss proposed solar options for the church. It was also pointed out that Craig Sutherland might have a conflict for further discussions so David Martin was asked to provide Financial Committee input in place of Craig, when needed. The decisions are ongoing and ultimately the congregation's decision.

In January, the Trustees received information regarding the formation of the Clayton Park Business Association as we are listed with the city as a business. The formation was felt to not really benefit Rockingham United Church and would bring added costs to the church. The Trustees did not vote in favour of the formation and the results are pending. If the vote is in favour, the church will face an additional expense, as there is no opting out if the majority of businesses vote in favour of the proposal.

Our last meeting was by email, due to home isolation as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Discussions were around the options of the church to access government funding as the facility has been forced to close due to the pandemic. There were funds available to offset some salary expenses.

The Trustees would like to thank Sylvia Thorne (our church office administrator) for her great help in dealing with the government programs during the time the church has been closed.

Respectfully submitted, Gary Wilson

COMMITTEES

BUILDING AND PROPERTY

Committee Members: Chair - Colleen Rollings, Garner Hill, John Sutherland, Mark Thornton, Sandy Munro, Doug Redden, Paul Gorman, Chris Bona, Katherine MacLeod Brown

The Building & Property Committee is pleased to report on another busy year keeping our facility in good working order. We continue to see an increased usage and inquiries for usage as a desirable location with a very functional hall, commercial kitchen, ample parking and public WiFi. Our committee members have been dedicated to the task of responding to maintenance repairs as identified throughout the building.

The focus for the fall was installing new lighting for the sanctuary. The lighting electrical wires were located just below the roof sheathing and were damaged during the roof installation. The insurance claim covered a majority of this cost and track lighting was installed and operational early in December. The upper lights will remain in place to be removed or replaced in coordination with other work that may be considered in the sanctuary in the future.

The focus this winter was the pursuit of a vendor to install solar panels on the south roof of the building. We were successful in our application to the Solar for Community Buildings Program. RUC is eligible for a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with NSPI for up to

75kW system. The solar array has the ability to generate approximately \$20,000 in revenue each year. Discussions are currently underway to award to a vendor selected from the four applicants that responded to the Request for Proposal (RFP). The cost of the system is currently estimated as approximately \$200,000 with a significant portion of the project to be funded through grants and existing RUC funds.

The other focus this winter was the pursuit of a plan in the event that the heating system requires replacement. The motor required replacement in January 2020. There remains over \$46,000 in the Capital Roof Campaign fund which included contingency for the heating system. A group of final year Dalhousie Engineering Students took on the challenge of designing options to reduce the current operating costs that exceed \$20,000 for fuel oil. The students looked at options to replace the boiler, install heat pumps, replace the water heater and increase insulation. The students provided their Capstone design report in April. Their recommendations are currently being considered by B&P and the Trustees for timing and scope. Programmable thermostats were installed in the sanctuary and choir loft to reduce heating costs for these areas and to address a gap created by the discontinuation of the janitor role for turning up the heat for Sunday Service.

The B&P committee also works with Sylvia to coordinate the rental agreements for the facility. Tennis Time continues to have a growing base of tennis lessons and have increased their hours of usage. Tennis Time also partnered with the immigrant society to offer free lessons and equipment to new Canadians at our facility. We are pleased to announce that we have an agreement in principle for a one-year lease with our primary tenant, Atlantic Montessori School. This revenue remains important to the church income and the current lease expires on August 31, 2020.

The contract cleaning service that was implemented to replace the former part time staff janitor role has been successful under Sylvia Thorne's direction. Automated sensor lights were installed near the washrooms to ensure we have safe lighting in place to access our washrooms.

The Building Fund remains in good shape with the reimbursement of the sanctuary lighting from insurance, the fund remains over \$50,000.

Respectfully submitted, Colleen Rollings, P.Eng.

Technology Sub-Committee

The Committee's Mission: The Technology Sub-Committee of Rockingham United Church will seek to adhere to our church's mission to worship God, share Christ's teachings, welcome all with love, reach out, work for social justice and to care for God's creation. (Paraphrased)

This will be done by promoting the use of technology to assist the operations of the church office, provide technological tools for our minister, council and all volunteers which will assist them to communicate with members/adherents, the wider church community and to reach out to the community around us. The committee will support technology in the sanctuary to enhance the worship experience; will support and enhance our church web page and expand the use of social media.

During this past year, the committee has been busy with the following items:

- We continue to oversee the technology piece in regular Sunday worship, weddings, concerts and funerals. Bill Dodsworth maintains the schedule of the volunteers that look after audio and projection each Sunday.
- Provide support for the church office on technical matters
- Oversee the expansion of technology throughout the church

In the fall of 2019, a meeting was called by Rev Sarah Raeburn, our new Minister. The meeting was to discuss procedures that needed to be followed each week to coordinate the technology piece for Sunday Worship. The meeting was attended by key players and included Sylvia Thorne, our Church Office Administrator. It was agreed that every effort would be made to get the weekly bulletin and announcements to Bill Dodsworth for the creation of Sunday's PowerPoint presentations which includes the insertion of the words for the hymns, the webmaster for insertion on the church's website and Dianna Prest for insertion in the church's Facebook page by Thursday afternoon of each week.

The learning curve for operators of the new, digital sound board has proven to be greater than expected. A workflow document was created and a training session with all who have committed to look after sound in the sanctuary was held. The document was written by Geoff Doane and the session was conducted by Geoff.

With the arrival of COVID-19 a quick decision was made to livestream worship using Facebook. Rockingham partnered with Fairview United in this project. Due to the need to social distance the work on this project was limited to as few people as possible. I thank Rev Sarah, Rev Angela MacLean of Fairview, Kathy Stone, RUC (music), Geoff Doane, RUC (sound), Dianna Prest, RUC (video), Maureen McGee, FUC (music) and Laurel Walker, FUC (tech support) for stepping up to the plate and bringing worship into our homes. Our copyright license was upgraded by Sylvia to cover us for livestreaming. We had as many of 100+ online at any one time during the services, with the greatest number on Easter Sunday for Communion!

While we have talked of livestreaming for a few years now at Rockingham United, this experience has now generated a strong interest in continuing this beyond the pandemic. A lot of the technical aspect is now in place and will need to be tweaked to handle this outreach. More people will be needed to provide a professional live streaming product for each Sunday service.

With the expiry of Microsoft software support for Windows 7 this spring, it was necessary to consider what to be done with the computer in the church office. We discovered that the Windows 10 free upgrade that had been offered earlier was still available and just before the office was closed due to COVID-19, Sylvia went ahead and updated the computer from Windows 7 Professional to Windows 10 Professional. The next step will be to upgrade Microsoft Office when things get back to normal.

I thank the committee members for their continued involvement in this committee:

Geoff Doane	-	Sound Specialist
Don Hailstone	-	Networking, wired & wireless
Shawn Silver	-	Server, Cloud Computing & Computer Maintenance

Respectfully Submitted, Rodger Middleton, Chair

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Members: Wendy Bona – Chairperson, Wendy Hawley – Staff, Rachel Sutherland, Claude Isaacs, Sharon Ernst

Nursery and Sunday School Programs

The Sunday School had a great year with a great, energetic group of kids. We have 35 children registered for Sunday School and most regularly attend Sunday School. Through the Fall we were working through the book of Luke. Our Christmas pageant, 'Live in Bethlehem', was very successful. The children and congregation seemed to really enjoy it. The pageant takes a lot of time and effort and we begin preparing right after Thanksgiving.

In the Fall the Sunday School moved out of the shared office with the Montessori School. We now use the shelves outside the Sunrise room and the old church library cupboard. It took a lot of work and was a big adjustment but is working out well now.

Our Church had a rough 2020 year so far. Between snow storms and Covid-19 we have missed a lot of regular church services. During the winter children were learning about Jesus' teachings in the book of Matthew. Now that there are no regular in-church services I have been sending out *At Home Sunday School* lessons each week. These lessons have a scripture reading, discussion questions about the reading, and related activities for Rockingham families. These have been working very well and I have had a lot of positive feedback. I will continue to do these until sometime in June.

Monica and Judy were great helpers and stepped up helping teach the younger children when needed. Amber was also a great help with the younger children. It would be very beneficial to have one more volunteer teacher. I will look into recruiting another when we return to regular church services.

Sunday School continued doing Youth In Service Sundays on the last Sunday of each month. The youth help with greeting, ushering, prayers, readings, and more. The children LOVE helping in these services and are always eager to participate.

I continue to purchase the Spark Curriculum to help organize Sunday School lessons. I will continue to do so in the future. Sermons for Kids is also a great resource (online) as well. There are many supplies still at the church. Some restocking will need to be done in September.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Hawley

Youth Group

Youth group had a very successful year. They participated in many fun events and grew in number. Last year we had 21 members and we have 3 new members this year. Youth Group typically meets every two weeks (holidays, school breaks and special events do throw off the schedule at times).

Some of the events and activities the youth group did over the past year are:

- Cookie Baking
- Selling cookies and crafts at Oktoberfest, Christmas Fair, and the Pancake Supper
- Game Night
- A Family Dinner
- Christmas Party

- January Joy
- A Paint Nite
- Craft Night
- Making Sandwiches and Care Packages for the *Out of the Cold Shelter*

Unfortunately, Covid-19 has put the Youth Group on hold and the rest of the year is up in the air. I have been staying in touch with families on a weekly basis to check in and keep people connected.

If the Youth Group continues to grow in numbers I may have to look into having a volunteer helper at meetings.

I have no issues or concerns at this time regarding the youth group.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Hawley

Adult Education

Fall was a time of preparation for Adult Education, meeting with Rev. Sarah for the first time as a group and looking forward to seeing the path she may want to take. With December already extremely full of commitments both personal and through the church's various activities, it was decided to move any new action items to the new year.

The first meeting in January Rev Sarah brought forth a variety of ideas for discussion. Some of these included a movie night & conversation, Spiritual Formation (Seeking Aliveness), Wilderness Journey – Lenten contemplative practice, Confirmation series, to name a few.

Seeking Aliveness was held January 20 – February 10/20. Attendance was between 10-12 for each individual session and discussion was good. There was a focus on what enlivens our Faith both in & out of the church.

The movie was canceled due to a conflict with the tennis club.

The youth forum and Conference for May 21-24 was also put forth to our youth group who were invited to take part if they wished.

Interfaith Harmony week February 1-7th was also brought forth to the congregation.

A retreat was held by Rev. Sarah on February for all council & committee members & any of the congregation who would like to attend. There was a good turnout with lively games, and discussions in small groups who then presented their findings to the whole. Lots of discussion centered around concerns, strengths, challenges and a path for the future. It was a very successful event that all would like to see have a sequel in order to more fully put together a plan for the future from the discoveries we made.

By early March all planning, & committee meetings & activities were put on hold due to the Covid Virus, and the state of emergency that was put in place by the premier and health officials. Depending on when this is lifted, and we are able to reconvene, will direct the planning for the rest of 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Bona

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS

Committee members are Sharon Ernst, Eleanor King, Noelle Murphy, Joanne Perry, Gaye Wishart and Mary Lou Evans Isaacs, chair. Gary Wilson as editor of Rockingham Reflections and Rodger Middleton as caretaker of the website are also members of the committee. We thank them for all they do to keep members and the public informed of activities at Rockingham United.

Our committee is tasked with helping to make Rockingham United a welcoming place for all who enter. We obtain greeters and host Cup and Conversation. Mary Lou stands at the door with the minister to welcome visitors and give them a candle and message to take home with them. We were so pleased to welcome Rev. Sarah Reaburn to our congregation in September. The arrival of Hurricane Dorian meant that we had to wait an extra week to have our first service with Rev. Sarah in our midst. Fortunately many members of the committee attended a welcome gathering at Mary Lou's the week of Sarah's arrival at Rockingham United.

The Kickoff to Fall Welcome barbecue was held the end of September with many members of the congregation in attendance. This event afforded Rev. Sarah the opportunity to socialize with members. The committee members want to thank everyone who helped with the barbecue and cleanup.

In October we had a reception following Rev. Sarah's covenanting service. It was a beautiful afternoon and many members of the congregation attended to show support of Rev. Sarah's ministry among us. In December we hosted a very large reception after the Carols by Candlelight service by our choirs. This is a very large reception and we appreciated the extra help with food, especially from the UCW. Thank you to all who attended and helped with setup and cleanup.

We were fortunate that we managed to have one worship service in January. It happened to fall two days before Rev. Sarah's birthday so we celebrated with a cake donated by Mary Lou. Sarah is not a fan of icing so she received her own personal size cake without icing.

Anniversary Sunday was February 9th. The Stewardship Committee hosted a soup luncheon. Mary Lou provided cupcakes instead of the traditional large cake to go with the casual atmosphere of the day. Sadly March brought us the COVID 19 virus and services in the church ended. Our last service together in our sanctuary was March 8th. As I write this report we are enjoying online services with our friends from Fairview United. Thank you to Rev. Sarah, Rev. Angela, Kathy Stone, Dianna Prest and Geoff Doane who are working as a team to bring us together as a community of faith.

I know I speak for all committee members when I say that I am looking forward to being able to worship in our beautiful sanctuary. Until then, I thank my committee members for their dedication to our ministry at Rockingham United. We will gather for Cup and Conversation once more. Our Zoom Coffee Parties will have to keep us satisfied until that happens.

Joanne Perry is moving to Windsor to be close to family and we will miss her cheerful presence. Best of luck to you, Joanne. Don't be a stranger.

Many thanks to the members of the congregation who have volunteered to greet throughout the year. Your ministry to our fellow members and visitors is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou Evans Isaacs

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Members: Gaye Wishart (Chair), Barb Lall, JoAnne Tanton, Kaireen Chaytor

- Our new Minister, Rev. Sarah Reaburn, joined us for our Committee meeting in the Fall. We were delighted to have a chance to meet with her and offer our support.
- Kaireen Chaytor, our newest member, attended an M&P workshop run by Rev. David Hewitt, Region 15 liaison.
- The Minister, the Office Administrator, the Church Organist/Choir Director and Sunday School/Youth Group Coordinator received a 1.9% cost of living increase effective January 1, 2020.
- Performance reviews were discussed with the Church Organist/Choir Director in February. We hope to conclude performance reviews for the Minister, Office Administrator and the Sunday School/Youth Group Coordinator by the end of June.
- The Minister and Staff have successfully transitioned to working from home with the exception of Sunday morning services for Rev. Sarah and Kathy. These are very well produced and attended via Facebook. It is something we look forward to on Sunday mornings and we thank all who have been involved in making this possible.
- The Sunday School/Youth Group Coordinator has been in weekly contact with the children of our Sunday School and their parents. They get weekly readings and she has been using her creative skills to design activities that they can do at home.
- Ministry and staff personnel are performing in an exemplary way and we are blessed to have them supporting our mission at Rockingham United Church.

Respectfully submitted, Gaye Wishart

OUTREACH AND REFUGEE COMMITTEE

This has been an interesting year that had started off with a lot of promise that stopped abruptly with the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The committee had its first meeting this past September with the leadership of Rev. Sarah Raeburn. The committee was made of the following people: Terri Billard, Dianna Prest, John McLearn, Donna Richards, Margaret Stewart and Mark Thornton. As of this date, no chair has volunteered to take on this task, John McLearn and Terri Billard have been co-chairing the committee and sharing the duties.

Efforts of the committee involved key initiatives including:

- Support of our Refugee family, ongoing
- Participation in the Refugee Private Sponsorship Round Table
- The White Gift campaign in November and December to support Metro Turning Point and the AIDS Coalition of NS.
- Outreach to the Al Rasoul Islamic Centre and Shar Shalom Synagogue, ongoing
- Community improvement campaign with Al Rasoul and the Ecology Action Centre, ongoing
- Truth and Reconciliation Efforts included our participation in the Blanket Exercise with Fairview United.
- Support to Brunswick Street Mission, ongoing;
- Participation in the Planning of the setup of a shelter for the homeless in the area of Fairview to Sackville area.

- Snacks for the Mt. St. Vincent University during their winter exam period
- Participation in the Interfaith Council for the surrounding churches

Support of our refugee family: Though our legal requirements for our refugee family, Helen & Haifa, ended in May 2019, there are many in the congregation that continue to support them as part of our Rockingham Family. John McLearn as well as other members of the congregation have also donated their time to assisting in family reunification of Ghassan and Mahir which is ongoing. Celebration Party for our Haifa & Helen is postponed while awaiting this reunification with Ghassan.

Support and education on refugee issues will continue including work that may include more support in various ways not only to the refugee families but also to the less fortunate. We will also increase efforts in areas such as mentoring, continued moral support and friendship with our family and help with the setup of a Private Refugee Sponsorship network with ISANS. Outreach will continue our efforts with other faith communities as well.

The White Gift campaign was successful once again with both cash and gifts which were appreciated by both Shelter NS and the AIDS Coalition. The White Gift campaign started with a new event, RUC Spoken Word Coffee House event in the church hall. This effort not only helped our charities but also received great positive feedback, a great kickoff to our White Gift Campaign with another planned for this November.

Kairos Blanket Exercise at Fairview United. Blanket exercise had around 43 in attendance. A good mixture of RUC & Fairview congregants as well as people outside of the church that heard of it through social media. It was a very moving experience. It put a visual to the story of the indigenous people of Nova Scotia. There is a desire to have the experience here at RUC. Outreach Committee will plan for spring of 2021.

Interfaith Council meetings: RUC members including Rev. Sarah Raeburn, John McLearn and Dianna Prest, attended the Interfaith Council meetings headed by Bedford United Church and Al Rasoul Islamic Center which also included members of other faith religions as well as indigenous spiritual leaders in HRM. These meetings give us avenue to hold discussions on our faith, our community and our experience. One of the projects to come out of these meetings is the creation of the Interfaith and Spiritual Network. The Mission of ISN is 'To foster mutual religious and spiritual understanding and peaceful co-existence in our communities.' Unfortunately the launch has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Brunswick Street Mission: RUC supported many breakfasts and activities for Brunswick Street Mission in the past year. The committee sponsored 2 individuals to attend the Annual Breakfast Fundraiser. The Men's Group and UCW also contributed their time money and effort to this mission.

Exam Snacks at MSVU: Even though it occurs during a very busy time of year with regards to fundraising events, this initiative is a great outreach project that is truly appreciated by the students at MSVU. In matter of time spent with gathering food, divvying up after worship on Sunday and distributed on the Monday & Tuesday at MSVU, the effort is not that intensive and the reward of gratitude is plentiful. There were about 80 people on Monday with a little less on Tuesday. The Outreach Committee will commit to doing this again in December 2020.

The coming year will see more on Truth and Reconciliation with the Aboriginal community, but details are yet to be confirmed.

It will be an interesting 2020-2021 year in Outreach. Our committee is small in number and would love to have new members. If you have an interest in Outreach in our community, please do not hesitate to talk to one of our members or drop in on a meeting.

**Respectfully submitted, Terri Billard, John McLearn, Dianna Prest,
Donna Richards, Margaret Stewart, and Mark Thornton**

PASTORAL CARE

Members: Eleanor King (Chair), Heather Coady, Barb Lall, Doreen Martin, Gerry Butler, Jan Mills, Hazel McLeod, Janet McMurtry, Jean Wentzell, Joan Munro, Lynda Pentz, Diane Ward, Rev Sarah. We are pleased that Ron Tanton will be joining our Committee in June. We miss our valued committee member of many years Charlie Murphy.

The Pastoral Care Committee provides support to members of our church community, especially during times of illness and death. Approximately 20 -25 individuals are followed each month. We have made hospital, nursing home and home visits as needed and provided communion to shut-ins. Cards, notes and telephone calls are also an important part of the support we bring to our church family. During self - distancing, committee members will be in contact with identified individuals as we recognize this is an important part of our role. We celebrated at parties with those who are 90 and over with tea, flowers, and treats and those between 80 and 90 received birthday cards. We appreciate any information that helps us to update our birthday and anniversary greeting information. Joan Munro provided excellent leadership in planning and implementing the Friendly Socials in Oct., Nov. and Feb. which are always well attended and enjoyed by all. We assisted Rev Sarah with worship at Parkland, Clayton Park, once a month from Sept. - Feb. The music provided by Joan Munro and Gerry Butler is a wonderful addition to these services.

We did not meet in July and Aug. but monthly meetings were held from Sept. - Feb.

We trust that the information in the bulletin re the Prayer Circle (contact Janet McMurtry) will ensure all members of the church community are aware of this service.

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor King

STEWARDSHIP

Members: Sandra Taweel – Chair, Beth Wilson, Lynn Knapp, Santosh Lall, David Carmichael, Brenda Munro

The 2019/2020 year has been a busy one for the Stewardship committee. Our first event of the season was once again the Octoberfest party. Due to survey feedback we changed our menu to a pulled pork sandwich with sauerkraut and salad. The new menu received rave reviews. The chicken dance contest and beer keg bowling were hard fought battles, but the most intense contest was the goat milking challenge. Children and adults both were determined to be victorious, with some of our older ladies proving their excellent technique.

November is Stewardship month at Rockingham United. Once again a letter of appeal was distributed to the congregation. The theme of this appeal was “Change Signals Growth,

Embracing the Many Changes at RUC". As part of this campaign I gave a personnel thank you from the pulpit. I explained how being a member of the congregation had affected my life and how the continued support of the church affects the lives and touches the hearts of many people.

The Stewardship committee met in the busy month of December to help prepare and distribute Reverend Sarah's Christmas letter. December was a bittersweet month for us as it marked the passing of our long time member and ardent supporter, Charles Murphy. He will be greatly missed by this church.

The first fundraising event of 2020 was a variety show, "January Joy". There was a wide variety of talents, magicians, story tellers, dancers and crooners. Unfortunately weather conditions caused a low audience turnout, so we will reconsider the time frame if we hold this event again.

One of the more popular fundraisers at this church is after service luncheons. In February we held a free will offering Soup Luncheon that was very well attended and brought in just under \$500. As this is such a popular event we plan to do it on a more regular basis.

Lynn Knapp has continued to be an outstanding champion of our "FundScrip" fundraising campaign. She has continued to promote it tirelessly and has steadily increased the number of users. This campaign has proven to be an excellent fundraised event during the new reality of social distancing. The orders can be filled out by the participants on-line and money e-transferred to the church. Cards are delivered to the participants doorsteps with all proper precautions followed. We will continue to encourage the congregation to participate in this effective fundraiser.

Dave Carmichael is our behind the scenes man organizing the collection counters every month. Dave, along with Charlie Murphy, spent last year collecting information on the repercussions of serving alcohol at Rockingham United events. Dave has made a presentation and a proposal to council regarding this possibility. Unfortunately due to the restrictions of Covid 19 the council has been unable to discuss the proposal.

Unfortunately due to the restrictions of Covid 19 on church activities, the Stewardship committee was unable to carry out all its plans for 2020. We had planned to have Rev. Rodger Janes, General Council representative for M&S/Stewardship, speak to the congregation on the role of stewardship. This was a precursor to changing the Stewardship campaign month at Rockingham to April. We had also hoped to host another soup luncheon and participate in the spring yard sale at the church as well.

Even though this is a small committee, their tireless enthusiasm has made another year successful. In the fall we hope to be back on track, helping to make Rockingham a fun successful church congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Taweel

WORSHIP

Current membership of the Committee:

Rev Sarah Reaburn (ex-officio), Heather McLearn (chair), David Clare, Anne Forbes, Ann Collinson, Brenda Munro, Terry Shaw, Kathy Stone (RUC Music Director)

Statistics for 2019-20:

Weddings	3
Baptisms	3

Funerals	11
Transfer of Membership	1

This has been a year of transition and new beginnings for Rockingham, and an unexpectedly challenging one. In June of 2019, we said farewell to our supply minister, Rev. Dr. Diane Tingley, and in September 2019 we were delighted to welcome our new minister, Rev. Sarah Reaburn. Unfortunately, her first service with us on September 8th had to be postponed for a week, due to the arrival of Hurricane Dorian.

Unfortunately, there have been numerous cancellations since September – three in January for inclement weather, and ongoing cancellations of in-person gatherings beginning in March 2020 as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of this report, it is unclear when in-person services will resume.

The Worship Committee met monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month from September 2019 to March 2020. We also had a special online meeting on Friday, March 27th to address issues that arose because of the COVID-19 situation and associated changes to services and church policies, in particular those pertaining to funeral services during the pandemic. The April Worship Committee meeting was held online using ZOOM technology; we anticipate that the May meeting and possibly the June meeting will be held in the same way.

At the end of June 2019, there were two resignations from the committee, Sandra Allen and Shelley Snair. We thank Sandra and Shelley for their valuable service over the past few years. Sandra will continue to work with David Clare to assist with funeral services. Brenda Munro and Terry Shaw joined us in February 2020. In March 2020, Joanne Perry also resigned from the committee, as she will be moving to be closer to her family. She will be sorely missed.

During the past year the activities of the committee included planning Sunday Worship under the guidance of Rev. Reaburn, arranging and planning special services, recruiting volunteers for participation in worship services and for tasks related to the maintenance of the Sanctuary and Narthex, and arranging for supply ministerial and music staff.

We would like to acknowledge the many contributions of our committee members:

- David Clare and Sandra Allen for taking care of the duties for our funerals.
- Anne Forbes for looking after our Communion and organizing Communion servers and Scripture readers.
- David Clare for assisting with Announcements.
- Joanne Perry for performing as our Committee secretary.
- Ann Collinson maintaining the Christ Candle, and organizing hanging of banners in the Sanctuary.
- Kathy Stone for our wonderful music in Worship.

Thanks to members of the congregation who have taken on certain duties to maintain and enhance our Sanctuary and our Worship:

- Karen Middleton for gathering candle lighters for worship.
- The Audiovisual Team for their work during Worship.
- All those who have volunteered as ushers, communion servers, readers, and candle lighters who welcome and serve our congregation during Worship.
- Sandra Taweel, for her help in planning for enhancements to the Narthex.
- The youth of the congregation, who have continued their participation in worship services once a month during the past year, as well as ushering on those Sundays.
- The devoted group who regularly participate in decorating the sanctuary for special seasons. We deeply appreciate their gifts of time and talent over the past year.

- Dianna Prest and Geoff Doane for setting up (on short notice) and refining our online services during the suspension of in-person services during the COVID-10 pandemic.

Special thanks to Sylvia Thorne for her ongoing assistance and encouragement.

Services and Accomplishments of the Worship Committee during 2019/20:

- We organized and participated in a laity-led Sunday Service on Dec 30, 2019.
- Shared services with Fairview United Church for the months of July and August 2019, as well as online services during the suspension of in-person service during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Contributions to special services for Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas Eve, Anniversary Sunday, Baden-Powell Sunday.
- Ongoing renovations to the Narthex (Currently suspended during the pandemic)
- Revision of the RUC information pamphlet on baptisms. Similar revisions are planned for pamphlets on weddings and funeral services.

Summary

As chair of Worship, I would like to thank the members of the Worship Committee, the fabulous staff of RUC, and the congregation for your ongoing support. We are truly blessed to have an abundance of talents within our congregation and are grateful to those who have shared their gifts so generously. Pulling together as a community of faith has never been more important.

Respectfully submitted, Heather McLearn

GROUPS

CHOIRS

Youth Choir

This year's Youth Choir has been as active as any, providing anthems for worship services at least twice per month as well as maintaining regular practices late Saturday afternoons. Our faithful members have been made an even dozen this year with the joining of our enthusiastic Jaya Lerette. We sang You've Got a Friend in Me for Rev. Sarah's covenanting service on October 10th. We were also able to offer a few extra selections, an impromptu concert, since there was a delay in the beginning of the covenanting service. We participated, as always, in the annual Carols by Candlelight concert, singing alone and with combined choir numbers. One other impromptu serenade by the Youth occurred during the Men's Group annual Pancake Supper. Daniel Sutherland offered some delightful piano selections at this supper. He has also been playing the organ occasionally in Sunday worship this year. After Christmas, we began fervently practicing for a Spring musical called "Shortstops". Unfortunately, with the current global conditions and the closure of churches nationwide, our plans for the musical, Mother's Day medley, and any other special music has come to an abrupt halt. Hopefully members of the Youth Choir have continued to sing along with on-line worship services streamed from RUC and Fairview United. We are all looking forward to gathering once again when the current social conditions are alleviated. Youth Choir Members: Emily Brown, Rebecca Brown, Emily Gorman, Hannah Gorman, Beth Hailstone, Liam Johnston, Jaya Lerette, Daniel Sutherland, Maya Sutherland, Patrick Sutherland, Amber Thornton and Paige Thornton. Special thank you to Mrs. Bev Andrews for always taking such good care of our choir gowns and sashes.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Stone, Youth Choir Director

Senior Choir

This church year, without a doubt, has been the most unusual year for everyone, including the music ministries. Our year began quite normally, with regular practices on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm or thereabouts. We grew by one valuable member, Jennifer Thornton, who also plays flute with us on occasion. Unfortunately, our first worship service in September with our new Minister, Rev. Sarah, was preempted by hurricane Dorian. The Senior Choir sang at Rev. Sarah's covenanting service on October 10th. We offered many varied musical selections at the annual Carols by Candlelight Christmas concert, along with the Youth and Men's choirs. Our first worship service after Christmas was also preempted by a storm. Several of our Thursday rehearsals were interrupted by Thursday storms as well. We had begun enthusiastically practicing for Lent and Easter services when, on the third Sunday of Lent, churches across the province were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been worshipping from home ever since, watching live-streamed services from RUC and Fairview, led by Rev. Sarah, Rev. Angela MacLean, and music by Kathy or Maureen McGee from Fairview. Hopefully choir members have been singing along with the services to keep their vocal cords warm in preparation for our eventual return to the loft. We encourage anyone with an interest in singing, even if you DON'T read music, to consider joining our 'youthful' senior choir in the Fall. Senior Choir Members: Samantha Bixby, Wendy Burns, Gerry Butler, Ann Collinson, Doreen Crick, Reg Crick, Myrna Davies, Sharon Ernst, Cathy Gillis, (Choir President), Mary Lou Evans-Isaacs, Mary Fife-Jost, Brian Martin, Heather McLearn, Janet McMurtry, Karen Middleton, Joan Munro, Lynda Pentz, Carole Phillips, Donna Schnare, Jennifer Thornton, Dale Ward, Beth Wilson and Gary Wilson.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Stone

Men's Choir

Members: Joan Munro (Director), Kathy Stone (Accompanist), Peter Bowden Gerry Butler, David Carmichael, Reg Crick, Geoff Doane, Claude Isaacs, Brian Martin, Rodger Middleton, Sandy Munro, Ken McLeod, Alan Schnare, Terry Shaw, Ron Tanton, Hiram Tiller, Dale Ward, Gary Wilson

Each Sunday at 8:45 am from October until April, men of the congregation meet to sing and learn various gospel and other selections under the capable leadership of our director Joan Munro and accompanist Kathy Stone. This year the choir was saddened to lose a long time member, Charlie Murphy. We were able to sing for Charlie at the Camp Hill Veterans Hospital when he was unable to sing with us at the Christmas Concert and honoured to have participated in his memorial service. Our practices and participation in services were cut short with the coronavirus pandemic but we are confident we will return in the fall with great enthusiasm for worship participation.

Respectfully Submitted, Gary Wilson

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (Women's Ministry Network)

President-Sharon Ernst

Vice President-Vacant

Secretary-Heather McLearn

Past President- Joanne Perry

Stewardship-Diane Ward

Church in Society-Eve Tupper

Treasurer-Mary Lou Evans Isaacs Chair of Finance-Heather McLearn
Kitchen-Eve Tupper

Unit Leaders:

Clayton Park - Eve Tupper

Jean Hogan- Audrey Wade

Laura Wright- Mary Lou Evans Isaacs

The members of our three units enjoy working alongside one another in our support of Rockingham United Church and our Mission and Service projects.

In 2019 we held meetings in September and October to plan for our Annual Christmas Sale, and a wrap-up meeting in November following the sale. The Christmas Craft sale held on Saturday, November 15th was well received. There were a variety of home-made baked goods, jams, pickles and handcrafts, along with items made by the RUC Men's Group, a variety of used books and a jewelry table which was spearheaded by Vivian Coughlan. The Christmas Café was very popular serving 48 "coffee breaks" and 113 meals. People enjoyed the Christmas decorations, the setup of the Christmas Café and the informal, comfy seating areas which made it relaxing and inviting.

Our orders for baked goods initiative was a success again this year. Orders could be placed for small or large trays/boxes of a variety of squares or small trays/boxes of shortbread cookies, with pickup available on December 1st and December 15th. This is very convenient for people especially as they host get-togethers with family and friends in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Our last event for 2020 was the Christmas social in December, where our three units participated in a themed worship programme led by the Laura Wright Unit. The evening wrapped up with a social time and refreshments served by the Clayton Park unit. Donations of items for homeless women were also collected at the social.

In January 2020 we held our Annual General Meeting, where we presented our proposed budget to the membership. At this meeting the decision was made about the future of UCW at Rockingham. In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to find members to serve as executive officers in Rockingham UCW General. At the end of 2020, we will no longer have any members willing to take on any of these positions. We recognize that the role of women in the church has evolved over time, and women now serve in many capacities in the church. With regret, the membership feels that the continued existence of the UCW as a formal organization reporting to Halifax Presbyterial is no longer viable. Therefore, we plan to transition at the end of this year from Rockingham UCW to a new entity tentatively called Women of Rockingham United Church, primarily a social group within our pastoral charge, although we hope to continue assisting with fundraising.

In February, we held a successful bake sale in conjunction with the Men's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The proceeds from the bake sale went to RUC operating fund. As always, we greatly appreciated the generosity and support of those who donated the baked goods and other items for the sale, and also those who purchased them.

In March, we participated in the World Day of Prayer service that was hosted by the ladies from Saint Benedict's Catholic Church. The service was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, who invited the world to "Rise, Take your Mat and Walk". The event was held at 1:00 p.m. instead of

the usual evening service, due to the availability of the church. Following the service, we enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments. At the March 11th UCW Executive meeting Easter eggs were stuffed with food item suggestions. The intention was for the youth to distribute the eggs after services on March 22nd and 29th with items being returned to church on April 5th. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, church services and all gatherings were cancelled for the rest of March. Rev. Sarah offered to break open an egg for congregation members and let them know what their food bank donation item was.

April church services and meetings were also cancelled with the continuation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Food bank donations were dropped off at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday April 4th. Thank you to Mary Lou Evans Isaacs for accepting the donations in her van and delivering the items to the Food Bank. Our Easter food drive initiative is always greatly appreciated by the Food Bank and there is great need this year with many people out of work due to the pandemic. The Laura Wright Unit had planned to host a buffet lunch fundraiser on April 26th following the service. This will be held at a later date when the pandemic is over and we are again allowed to gather for worship and social events.

May is usually the time for a social gathering with a guest speaker. This also had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted, Sharon Ernst

UCW Financial Reports January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

ROCKINGHAM UNITED CHURCH WOMEN TREASURY 2018

INCOME		Balance
Balance Forward		
Interest	80.00	7862.42
AGM Offering	56.00	
Units	1160.00	
Kitchen Use	50.00	
Christmas Sale	6373.30	
Bake Sale	752.50	
Bond	2004.82	
TOTAL	<u>10476.62</u>	<u>\$18339.04</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
RUC	2000.00	
	2500.00	
	752.50	
Presbyterial	92.00	
Kitchen Supplies	25.86	
Sale Expenses	83.41	
M&S	1500.00	
Dal	100.00	
Camp Kidston	325.00	

Deaf Ministry	100.00	
St. Paul's	175.00	
Brunswick Street	250.00	
Staff Gifts	200.00	
TOTAL	<u>8103.77</u>	
		<u>-\$8103.77</u>

\$10235.27

2019 UCW PETTY CASH REPORT

Balance Forward	\$28.03
December 15,2019 Heather McLearn	\$23.00
Balance	\$ 5.05

#The expenditure was for an anti-fatigue mat for the kitchen. It was purchased at Costco for \$20.00 plus tax which came to \$23.00. The receipt was lost.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men of RUC is an opportunity for all men of the congregation to gather, thru service to our church, Outreach to those in need and through social activities. We focus on the spirit of friendship of men involved in our church. While we have 40+ men on our email distribution list, we typically have 15 – 20 ready and willing to participate in our various activities each year. Our activities came to a grinding halt in March 2020 with the arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Each year, we formulate plans for activities at the outset in early September. The following are the activities that occurred during the past year:

September: RUC/BUC Golf Challenge: On September 27th men from Bedford United Church and Rockingham United gathered at Lost Creek Golf Club for this annual golf challenge. Bedford United were the hosts for this event this year. There were 24 golfers, 12 from each church. It was a beautiful day on the course. The overall trophy went to Bedford United with the lowest combined score. The Longest Drive went to Jerry Inman from Bedford and the Closest to the Hole was Len Churchill also Bedford. The Most Honest Golfer was Chris Bona from Rockingham United. Rockingham United will be the Host this year.

Mooseheads Hockey Outing: Our Mooseheads Hockey Game outing got moved to Sunday afternoon, February 9th 2020 and it was preceded by lunch at Maxwell's Plum. On this occasion we had about 16 guys sign up and 15 attended. There were 12 from Rockingham and 3 from Bedford United Men's Groups. A fun outing of socializing was enjoyed by all who attended.

Pool Outing: On March 10th two of our guys joined with men from Bedford United Church at Dooley's in Bedford for an evening of pool.

Outreach Projects:

Monthly Lunch Meetings: Our monthly lunch meetings continued this year. This is the seventh year we have held these Outreach Luncheons. The cost of admission is new socks and/or underwear for The **Brunswick Street Mission** which end up being used at the Men's Turning Point Shelter. We also collected used clothing which was taken to **Brunswick Street Mission** or **The Out of the Cold Shelter** at St. Matthew's. We thank Len Sweett for his continued willingness to look after getting these items from the lunch to the mission. We extended an invitation to the men of Bedford United in the fall and had a great turnout. Our monthly meetings came to a grinding halt in March when restaurants stopped providing meals on their premises due to the arrival of COVID-19. This means we will have missed at least four opportunities to support this project this year.

Brunswick Street Mission Breakfasts: Our men continued to agree to support Brunswick Street Mission taking responsibility for three breakfasts throughout the year. The men of RUC agreed to do the breakfasts on November 11th, December 28th and April 10th, Good Friday. This has turned out to be an enjoyable and warming event for all who take part. Discussions have been carried on with Bedford United Men and Al Rasoul Mosque in Bedford. As a result, Al Rasoul have agreed to be responsible for four breakfasts during 2020 as did Bedford United, upping their committed from three to four. In addition to each group continuing with their individual contribution each year, there will be discussions around the three groups coming together to pick up additional breakfast commitments in the future. This project was also put on the back burner due to COVID-19. Al Rasoul did not get to do their first breakfast and Rockingham United missed our Good Friday breakfast commitment. In lieu of fulfilling that commitment, The Men of RUC agreed to a \$200.00 donation and individual donations to the BSM Breakfast Program. Meal preparation is now being handled by full time staff at the mission for the duration of the Pandemic.

Fund Raising Projects:

Candy Cane Carnival: We again had a Made By Men Table for the Candy Cane Carnival and we also provided men to police the parking lot. Proceeds from the Made by Men Table are included in the overall receipts the UCW gather from this event.

Memorial Christmas Tree: In the past, Charlie Murphy championed this event from it's beginning, back in 2013. For health reasons, Charlie was unable to look after this project this year. We got a tree from Harrington's Tree lot at the bottom of Kearney Lake Road. We wanted a larger tree than we have had in the past, so, we negotiated a deal where we would pay half the cost of a larger tree and the rest was a donation from the tree lot. A brief dedication occurred just prior to the Candlelight Concert in December. With Charlie's passing, we had suggestions that this project should be renamed in memory of him. So, after consultation with the Men of RUC we recommended to our Church Council that this project be referred to in future as being **The Charlie Murphy RUC Memorial Christmas Tree**. Council approved this memorial.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: On Tuesday, February 25th the annual Pancake Supper was held. This is a fun event to work at and a great meal is provided. 146 Tickets were sold, and we received on donation. After expenses the net profit for this event was \$1,185.00. Thank you to Champions, Ken McLeod and Claude Isaacs for their work on this event and for all the men that turned out to make this event a success.

Mother's Day Lobster Lunch: Mother's this year is May 10th, 2020. Champion Alan Schnare has been looking at ways that may be used to carry out this event. Discussions will need to be had with The Health Department and our Church Council. COVID-19 may very well take its toll on this event this year.

Projects around the Church:

John Turner Memorial Garden & Either Side of Sanctuary Entrance: In the fall of 2019 a work party was called to 'spruce up' either side of the entrance to the Narthex and around the church parking lot. Weed trees were cut out from the area to the right of the church entrance and with the help of Mark Thornton and equipment from the landscaping company he works for, the roots were removed. Weed trees were cut back around the oil tanks and weeds in general were removed from the area around the parking lot. Weed trees were cut out of the rose bushes in the John Turner Memorial Garden.

Provide support for Property & Maintenance Committee: The Property & Maintenance Committee continues to rely on support of the men of RUC on an as needed basis for projects around the church facility, inside and out.

Finances:**Men's Group Financial Report July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

Opening Balance July 1, 2019		\$2,773.40
Receipts:		
Oscar 2019	\$4,074.65	
Memorial Tree	\$1,190.00	
Memorial Tree Donation in Memory of C. Murphy*	\$ 280.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*	\$1,185.00	
Lobster takeout 2020	_____	\$6,729.65
Disbursements:		
Our Portion of the Memorial Tree Purchase	\$ 45.00	
Cost of one on line Mem Tree Donation*	\$ 0.70	
Donation to Sackville Warming Shelter	\$250.00	
Brunswick Street Breakfasts	\$266.62	
Donation to Brunswick St. Breakfast Program*	\$200.00	
Purchase Oscar cans for 2020 campaign	\$52.66	
Transfer to Church Operating Fund	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$7,814.98</u>
Closing Balance April 15, 2020		<u>\$1,688.07</u>

***Accounting Notes:**

- Neighbours of Charlie Murphy heard about our memorial tree after the fact and banned together and donated \$280.00. This amount was not recorded in our receipts for last year's memorial tree and was received by the church office on February 23, 2020. We will include it as a part of this year's project.
- The receipts of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper are always net of expenses for advertising and raw materials.
- In order to get a larger, fuller tree this year we cost shared ½ of the purchase price of the tree with Harrington's Tree Lot.
- Our scheduled breakfast on Good Friday was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Men of RUC voted to make a group donation in the amount shown to help support the program that is now being run by paid staff.

Join our Email List: Stay in tune with the happenings of this group, the Men of Rockingham United. Simply send an email to rmiddleton@eastlink.ca requesting your name to be added and we'll keep you up to date on the group's happenings.

Respectfully Submitted, Rodger Middleton for The Men of Rockingham United**WEBSITE – SOCIAL MEDIA**

RUC's Website: Rockingham United has had a website for about 17 years. Work is constantly done on the site to make it as informative as possible to both members and adherents of our church as well as folks considering coming to our church. The website is located at www.rockinghamunited.org

Website Contents: Along the left side of the landing page are a number of links to other pages on the site. The **Announcements** and **Order of Service** pages are updated each week by Friday with the bulletin for the coming Sunday. The Announcements page is the most viewed of all the pages on the site. The rest of the buttons on the left provide all sorts of information about various groups in our church, a brief look at our church history, and a look at our physical property. There is a Links Button that provides connection to the wider church community, including Regional Staff Contact information for Regional Council 15 and The United Church of Canada. In addition links are there to Camp Kidston Memorial Camp, The Tatamagouche Training Centre, The Atlantic School of Theology and The Canadian and American Bible Societies. There is a button that is a link to Our Daily Bread, an online Daily Devotional. Just below the photo and to the right on the landing page is another group of buttons. There one can quickly get to our Reflections Newsletter, the Calendar of Events and links to The United Church of Canada's webpage and The United Church You Tube site. Events that are brought to the attention of the Webmaster are highlighted here for easy quick reference. An area just above the photo on the landing page is used to highlight items of importance. Once they see this reference, it is hoped they will seek out more info on those events elsewhere in the website. Worship Services & Concerts can be listened to after the event. This link can be found on the right side of the landing page, below the featured image for the week. The 'Our Photo Gallery' button on the left or in the buttons on the right will take you to a page where there are several slideshows of photos outlining the life and work of our church.

Website Traffic: Over the past six years the average annual traffic has remained steady. We use Statscounter and Google Tag Manager to track stats on use of the website. Most visits happen on Friday or Saturday of each week and are higher in the Fall to Spring months than in the Summer.

Returning Visits - Based purely on a cookie, if this person is returning to the website for another visit an hour or more later.

First Time Visits - Based purely on a cookie, if this person has no cookie then this is considered their first time at your website.

Unique Visits - Based purely on a cookie, this is the total of the returning visits and first time visits - a total count of visits.

Page Views - The number of times a page has been visited.

Whether or not cookies were placed on the visitor's system when they were on our site depends on whether or not they have cookies enabled on their computer. Therefore, the First Time Visits and Unique Visits can be higher than Returning Visits.

Social Media: Recently Rockingham United has opened accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. These social media sites are maintained by the church office and Dianna Prest. Dianna looks after Facebook on a weekly basis and events that are occurring at Rockingham United get posted to these programs as well.

During the COVID-19 crisis our Facebook account has been used to livestream worship. It's been a learning process but has served its purpose well. Discussions are currently underway to implement livestreaming beyond the end of the crisis. Stay tuned!

Our website and our social media posts serve our congregation well, getting our message out to the church and wider community.

Respectfully Submitted, Rodger Middleton

CO-OP PLAYGROUP

From September until June, on most Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, a group of preschoolers and their caregivers meet in the church hall at Rockingham United. For the first hour we play with ride on cars, toys and available craft supplies like play dough and colouring sheets. At 11:00 a.m. we gather in the fireside room for stories and singing. Then the children eat a lunch provided by their caregivers. We usually end by playing with balls and a parachute. Please consider joining us for a fun and energetic time together. Feel free to call or email me for further information.

Karenlm5@icloud.com ; 902-443-0580

Respectfully submitted, Karen Middleton

STATISTICS

Year ending December 31, 2019

Households under Pastoral Care – 322
Households Financially Supporting – 225
Number of Baptisms – 3
Number of Funerals – 11
Number of Marriages – 3
Average weekly attendance – 130