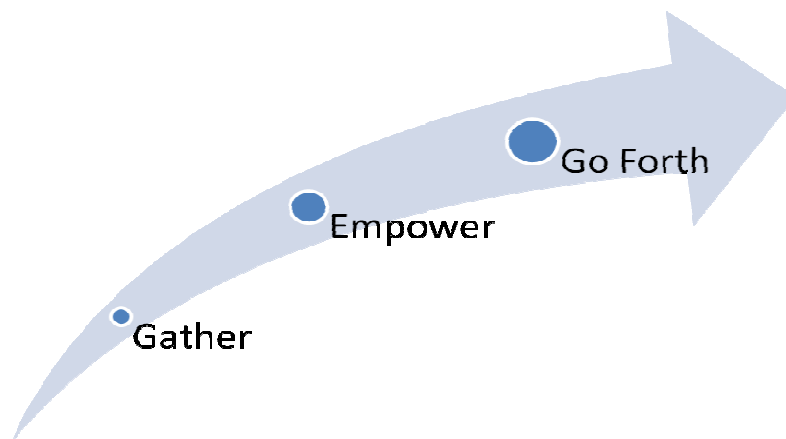
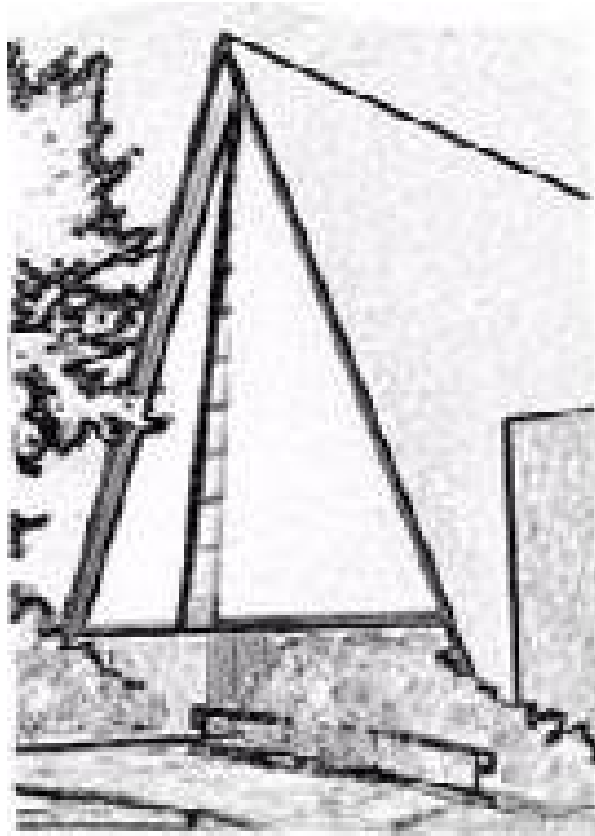


Rockingham United Church



Annual Report June 2010

(Period July 2009 – June 2010)

Table of Content

Committee - Group	Page
Executive Committee	3
General Statistics	4
Administration	4
Choirs (Youth, Senior, Men's)	5
Church Archives	8
Membership Relations	8
Ministry and Personnel	9
Nominating	9
Outreach	9
Pastoral Care	10
Presbytery	10
Stewardship	11
Trustees	11
Worship	11
Men's Group	13
Rockingham United Church Women	13
Christian Development	14

Executive Committee

Members: Ministry Personnel: Rev. Paulette Phillips, Co- Chairs: Steve Forbes, Helen Sweett, Past Chair: Rodger Middleton, Secretary: Gary Wilson, Treasurer: Alan Schnare, Trustees: Sam MacKay (Chair), Don Laing, Hugh Macdonald, Dave Martin, Kay Youle, Presbytery Reps: William Dodsworth, Fran Paton, Helen Sweett, Ministry & Personnel Committee: Linda Hall, Jeff Harrington, Jan MacDonald, Ian Wood, Member at Large: Doreen Crick, Administration: Bob Rose, Christian Development: Sandra Taweel, Membership Relations: Mary Lou Evans Isaacs, Nominating: Noelle Murphy, Outreach: Fran Paton, Pastoral Care: Doreen Martin, Stewardship: Dave Carmichael, UCW Rep: Avis Densmore, Worship: Anne Forbes

The Executive Committee met monthly from September to June and four Congregational Meetings were held, other than the Annual General Meeting. 2009-2010 has been a mixed year with the winding down of the Transition Team work after the writing of our new Mission Statement and Vision and review of job descriptions. During July and August we shared services with Fairview United Church for the first time; July at Rockingham and August at Fairview.

Progress with the move towards calling a settled minister was made. A Joint Needs Assessment Committee was put together over the summer months and voted in by the Congregation on September 20. From then until December the Committee of five Rockingham Members and two Halifax Presbytery Representatives met regularly, talked to Congregational members, circulated a survey form and collated the answers, which culminated in their final report. The congregation approved the report on January 10 and a Joint Search Committee was named and voted in, subject to Halifax Presbytery declaring a vacancy for an ordained minister commencing July 1, 2010 at the earliest. This took place at a Full Court Meeting of Halifax Presbytery on January 12. The Joint Search Committee of five from Rockingham [two from the JNAC] and the same two from Presbytery are, at this writing, far along in the process.

From December to April Rev. Paulette Phillips and one member of the Congregation worked on a new Governance Model for our church with parliamentary advice. A Congregational workshop planned in January for work on this document, did not take place, however, the document meets the United Church Manual Council Model. Halifax Presbytery Executive approved the governance model on May 25, 2010, which completed the three Interim Ministry requirements imposed on us by Halifax Presbytery.

Throughout the year social events and fund raisers have taken place, which are reported on by the individual Committees and Groups that organized them, and we thank them for their extra work. We held a special Pot Luck Supper in the fall to support Maureen Hutton who was in Toronto for an extended period of time, waiting for and then having double lung transplant surgery. She returned to us in February, and we are happy that all went well. We fully supported the Haiti Appeal by meeting the Federal Government deadline for matching funds. We benefited too, in more ways than financially, in having the St. Benedict Parish [Our Lady of Perpetual Help Congregation] use our sanctuary for their worship services for three months, during the final construction stages of their new church. We were happy to be invited to visit their new premises at the end of May and see how four churches – Our Lady, Pious X, St. Joseph, St. Lawrence, and The Mount are part of the new building.

A new photo directory published in the fall has been a useful resource when following up on members who we have not seen for a while and for Nominating Committee work. Our attendance at Sunday worship has declined, but we have had good support at all events, and especially the Memorial Hymn Sing for which we thank those who planned and participated. We are thankful to those who are preparing the overhead announcements for our services and those who record, as well as the many who co- presided with Rev. Phillips, the greeters, ushers, readers and children's storytellers. All are appreciated and Worship Chair, Anne Forbes, is especially commended for the particularly heavy workload she took on in this past year.

Our Interim Minister decided in May to leave us a few weeks earlier than her June 30, 2010 contract termination date. We trust she is enjoying her retirement again. Meanwhile we have been fortunate to have Rev. Joe Manchester support us, and also Rev. David Hann and Rev. Allen Darby, as we await the appointment of a Pastoral Charge Supervisor by Halifax Presbytery. There have been sad times at Rockingham throughout the year and we remember those long time faithful members who have died, and the Pastoral Care offered when needed to many of our members.

Steve Forbes and Helen Sweett are finishing a two-year term as your Co-Chairs and they thank the Executive Committee and members of the Congregation for their support. Special mention is also made of our paid staff; Judi Goodwin-Kedy, Kathy Stone and Mark Thornton.

General Statistics

Year ending December 31, 2009

Households under Pastoral Care	313
Received by Certificate of Transfer	4
Received by Profession of Faith	0
Removed by Death	3
Removed by Certificate of Transfer	5
Number of Baptisms	7
Number of Funerals	8
Number of Marriages	1
Average weekly attendance	134

Administration Committee

Members: Jim Densmore, Claude Isaacs, Brian Martin, Bob Shaffelburg, John Sutherland and Bob Rose (Chair)

Overview: The committee, thanks to a strong effort from all of its members continued to work on and successfully complete a variety of projects during the past year. The projects ranged from painting the gym floor to new narthex lights to the RUC Fire evacuation Plan. Details of the major projects are noted below.

Review of Activities: The gym floor painting had a number of false starts but finally the old wax was removed and the committee work party was able to apply the new paint. Our group also contributed to the great job of cleaning up the Memorial Garden and a new Office Copier was ordered and arrived complete with colour capabilities.

One of the major problems facing our group last winter was the furnace breakdown on six different occasions from October 11, 2009 to January 23, 2010. Each time Scotia Fuels were called in but could not determine the cause. We had a number of meetings with Scotia Fuels including one on February 18, 2010 at the church with their service manager and one of their head technicians but again they could not provide a reason.

With this in mind and in conjunction with Scotia Fuels we set up a procedure for the next time the furnace stopped during the winter. In addition we revised the summer cleaning (2010) for the furnace / boiler and in addition to Scotia Fuels we will also have D and J Davidson clean and check the inside of the boiler, etc.

With a committee work party and in conjunction with Pelham Electric new lights were finally ordered and installed in the Narthex, downstairs entrance and choir room. They were a great improvement and we received many compliments for the effort. During the same time we also added new electrical plugs and consequently removed some extension cords, hard wired some existing Exit lights, added a new light to the choir stairway and replaced some broken electrical breakers. We also installed new and additional Exit lights required for the Fire Evacuation Plan. Working these projects together and with the committee members helping a considerable cost saving was realized. We were very pleased with the results of this effort.

The price of Oil and its future cost to Rockingham United has been an on going concern and with this in mind considerable time has been spent looking at various ways of trying to reduce our heating cost. A report has been prepared outlining a number of possible options and we plan to present it to the Executive during the June meeting.

The committee also took an active role in the successful negotiations with OLPH of Saint Benedict Parish for the use of our church for about 2 ½ months while they were waiting for their new church to open. This proved to be a very satisfactory arrangement for both parties.

The lack of a Fire Evacuation Plan was an on going concern of Rockingham United for a number of years and the Administration Committee is very pleased to have successfully completed this requirement. The Plan was presented and approved by the Executive core.

In addition to this the Executive with some help from this committee set up a method of implementing the Plan with the various RUC committees and staff members. Starting this fall the Executive will administer the Plan and its implementation.

In conjunction with the above an order has been placed with Window's Plus for a new emergency door for the Sunrise room.

Respectfully Submitted: Bob Rose (chair)

Choirs

YOUTH CHOIR

Members: Tonya Duggan, Emma Knapp, Lauren Knapp, Jacob Silver, Madison Silver, Alaura Taweel, Amanda Wentzell, Rachel Wentzell, Graeme Wood.

I am delighted to be able to report again on this dynamic group of singers. The Youth Choir began singing regularly at services in the middle of September and continued faithfully at least twice a month until May, maintaining regular Thursday evening rehearsals from 6:00 pm until 6:45 pm. The group was a "hit" at the Step By Step/RUC Concert in November, performing, among other selections, "If I Had a Hammer" and one of our favorites, "Cool Under Fire". "Cool Under Fire" was a special treat for us and for the visitors from P.E.I. for two reasons: one, we got to perform the piece for its composer, Valerie MacKenzie; and two, we got to perform it with the "live" visiting band, Step By Step.

We, of course, performed with the Senior and Mens' Choirs at the Carols by Candlelight Christmas event and we also offered Prelude music on various solo instruments studied by our members. The Youth participated in the Memorial Hymn Sing in April, offering "Children of the Light" as a favorite Youth anthem. The highlight of our year came in May when we offered our traditional Mother's Day medley, including every song we learned this church year. Our medley was augmented by selected

Mother's Day poetry and topped off with Michael Jackson's "We Are The World" as the offering anthem.

The Youth Choir and some other RUC members will visit the new St. Benedict's Catholic Church at their May 27 Open House followed by fancy dessert at our local ice cream parlour. Thank you to all the members for another exciting and fun-filled year of music.

Love and Blessings, Kathy Stone, Director

SENIOR CHOIR

Members: Kathy Stone (Director), Cathy Gillis (President) Jan Brown, Gerry Butler, Ann Collinson, Doreen Crick, Reg Crick, Sharon Ernst, Mary Lou Evans-Isaacs, Kathy Grant, Brian Martin, Heather McLearn, Janet McMurtry, Karen Middleton, Joan Munro, Fran Paton, Lynda Phelan, Carole Phillips, Bev Pierce, Donna Schnare, David Stewart, Dale Ward, Beth Wilson, Gary Wilson

Overview: The Rockingham United Church Senior Choir is currently a 23 member four-part choir (SATB) directed by the church organist, Kathy Stone. The Senior Choir is a ministry of music that strives to enrich worship services with praise and song. The Senior Choir offers a wide variety of sacred music ranging from early Baroque to contemporary. The Senior Choir contributes each week from September to June to the Sunday morning services. Typically, the choir sings an anthem and choral benediction. The choir is often invited to participate in special events at other churches and/or venues.

The Senior Choir practices on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The choir also gathers on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. for a 30 minute rehearsal prior to the morning service.

Review of Past Year: On August 23rd 2009, the ladies of the senior choir were asked to participate in the wedding of Ian Gillis and Heather Matheson, son of choir member, Cathy Gillis. It was a beautiful day and a lovely wedding and we were all delighted to have been asked to be part of their special day.

On November 14th, 2009 the choirs of Rockingham United joined with "Step by Step", Park Royal United Church's band from Charlottetown P.E.I. and presented a concert at Rockingham. "Step by Step" plays contemporary Christian music including many original arrangements composed by different members of the group. They have played at churches and other events in New Brunswick and P.E.I. and we were delighted that they were able to participate with our choir that evening.

Rockingham United's "Carols by Candlelight Service" was held on December 13th, 2009. The choir was joined by the Youth Choir and Men's Choir for this annual event. The Senior choir, along with the youth choir and men's choir, presented and participated in "A Memorial Hymn Sing" on Sunday April 18th, 2010. Many old familiar hymns were dedicated in memory of loved ones. On April 11th, 2010, the Senior Choir presented a concert of special Easter music during the morning worship service.

June 5th and 6th will find the senior choir at Park Royal United in Charlottetown. Along with their choirs we will be presenting a concert on Saturday Night June 5th and then participating in their church service on June 6th.

Plans for Coming Year: The Senior Choir is always seeking new members. A percentage of our group reads musical notation but non-readers are always welcome. Come and join us on a Thursday evening or contact Kathy Stone at 435-4812.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Gillis

MEN'S CHOIR

Members: Joan Munro (Director), Kathy Stone (Accompanist), Harlan Billard, Gerry Butler, David Carmichael, Reg Crick, Geoff Doan, Claude Isaacs, Sam MacKay, Ken MacLeod, Brian Martin, Rodger Middleton, Sandy Munro, Allison MacLeod, John Paul, Bob Rose, Alan Schnare, Dave Stewart, Ron Tanton, Jim Taylor, Hiram Tiller, Bob, VanBuskirk, Dale Ward, Gary Wilson

The Men's Choir of Rockingham United Church has completed another year of meaningful music. For many of its members, the Men's Choir has been the glue that has held it together for us. It was a great year!

Practices began October 18th, when Joan requested we appear with four pieces of music that we had done in the past. Besides getting ready for contributions to regular worship at Rockingham United, we needed to prepare for a concert on Saturday, November 14th. That concert would include **Step By Step**, a Christian rock group from Park Royal United Church in Charlottetown, PEI. Rev Kevin McKenzie and his wife Valerie are the driving force behind Step By Step. Kevin and Valerie had association with Rockingham United when Kevin was a student at AST. We had joined with them in Bedeque, PEI in the spring for a concert and worship at Rev Gloria Churchill's church. We joined with **Step By Step** for the Saturday Concert, and, **Step By Step** were involved in worship on Sunday the 15th. We thank **Step By Step** for their willingness to travel here to kick off our musical year at Rockingham United.



On December 13th we joined the other choirs of our church in **Carols by Candlelight**. Early in the New Year, we began working on the Anniversary Sunday Concert, **When Love Is Found**, which we presented on February 14th. This concert included guests, The Riverview Men's Quintet from Riverview United Church in Elmsdale and The Dartmouth All-City Boys' Choir from Dartmouth. We enjoyed our individual offerings and joined with our guests in music that lifted the spirit. The visual pictures of the Haiti Earthquake victims were fresh and ever present in our minds, so, we dedicated the proceeds of this concert to the United Church Haiti Appeal. It was also an opportunity for us to welcome a former RUC Minister, Rev Allen Darby as a guest with our choir and to offer a prayer at the opening of the concert. Allen and his wife, Betty spent over 20 years as missionaries in Haiti.

Our focus then shifted to the **Memorial Hymn Sing** which was presented on April 18, 2010. Folks at Rockingham United were encouraged to pledge a favorite piece of music in memory of a loved one. Funds from this event went towards the general operating funds of our church.

Continuing with our contribution to worship on a regular basis, our focus then switched to April 25th when we presented a revised version of **When Love Is Found** at William Black Memorial United Church in Glen Margaret. This has become an annual favorite for both our choir and the folks of William Black. That worship service was a meaningful end to our year, and we all headed back to Halifax, ready to put away our music for another year, fulfilled with the knowledge that we have been a part of some very meaningful worship experiences here at Rockingham United as well as the other places our travels have taken us.

All of us wish to thank Joan Munro, our Director and Kathy Stone, our accompanist for putting up with our silly antics and for leading us on a true worshipping experience through the music they have chosen for us on over the past year. Thank you for solidifying our connections with **our** church!

Respectfully submitted by Rodger Middleton

Church Archives

Members: Gary Wilson

A display was once again organized for the Anniversary Service. There has not been much activity this past year but photos that were donated have been added to the archives. The Book of Remembrance was also updated to add the memorial donations of the past two years.

Respectfully submitted: Gary Wilson.

Membership Relations

Members: Kay Youle, Myrtle Sellars, Cam MacPhee, Ramona McQuinn, Gaye Wishart, Jean Wentzell, Doreen Martin, Noelle Murphy, Jean Robertson, Brian Martin, Janet Patterson, Jan Mills (Home Member), Mary Lou Isaacs, chair.

Overview: The Membership Relations Committee exists to help make Rockingham United a friendly, welcoming environment. We provide members of the congregation with opportunities to gather for social time. When the church office informs us of new members to the congregation, they are contacted and welcomed to Rockingham United. To keep the congregation informed of church events, it is our mandate to support the church website, www.rockinghamunited.org and we budget for the production of Rockingham Reflections. We thank webmaster, Rodger Middleton, for his dedication and Reflections editor, Gary Wilson for his hard work throughout the year.

Review of Activities: We held the "Welcome Back Lunch" on Sunday, September 27th to afford the members of the congregation the opportunity to get caught up after the summer. We looked after having tea and coffee after the worship service each Sunday. We share these duties with the Outreach Committee which looks after the first and fifth Sunday of the month. Kay Youle keeps the supplies of tea, coffee, sugar and napkins well stocked and orders Just Us fair trade coffee when necessary. Doreen Martin looks after scheduling two committee members to be on duty each month for coffee time. Noelle Murphy makes baptism cookies and presents them to the families when they bring their children to be baptized.

December 11th was Carols at RUC Homes. We presented the people with a plate of cookies and provided hot chocolate and toast and sweets for the carolers when they returned to the church. This is a lovely way to keep in touch with members of our congregation who cannot always get to the Sunday service. Membership Relations hosted the reception after the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday, December 13th. This gives the congregation an opportunity to thank the choir members and directors for their gift of music.

Sunday, February 14th we celebrated the anniversary of Rockingham United. An anniversary cake was provided by the committee and members of the congregation were invited to share cake and enjoy the display put together by archivist, Gary Wilson.

It has been a pleasure to work with all members of this committee. As new rules come into place at RUC, a person is only allowed to serve on one committee. Unfortunately this means we will be losing some very dedicated members. Doreen Martin will continue on the Pastoral Care Team and Cam MacPhee will remain on the Outreach Committee. Brian Martin will remain on the Administration Committee. They will be greatly missed by their friends on Membership Relations. We thank them for their years of willing service on this committee.

As I write this report we are awaiting the exciting news of a new minister to be called to minister to and with us at Rockingham United. We assume that our new minister will begin in the fall. The date of

the appointment may impact the date of the Welcome Back Lunch. It may take the form of a Welcome to Rockingham Lunch this year. Please watch your bulletin for notices of the date.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou Evans Isaacs

Ministry and Personnel

Jan MacDonald, Ian Wood and Linda Hall looked after the affairs of the committee. Several positions on the committee require replacements for the following year.

Nominating

Members: Noelle Murphy (Chairperson), Mary Lou Evans-Isaacs. Lynn Knapp

The mandate of Rockingham United Church Nominating Committee is to secure members of our RUC community to serve on the Church Executive as Chair, Chair Designate, Secretary, Treasurer, Presbytery representatives, Members at Large, Mission Enthusiast, Green Enthusiast, and as Committee Chairpersons for the incoming year. These persons are then presented to the congregation at the June Congregational Meeting. Since we have been in Transition for the past two years, 2008-2010, Co-Chairpersons, Helen Sweet and Steve Forbes, as well as other Executive members have agreed to say in place to see us through this difficult time.

We are very grateful to all members of this Executive as well as all committee members who serve and support our faith community. To all members of Rockingham United Church who so willingly lend their time and talents to ensure we have a vital, interesting and spiritual faith community, Nominating also extends its upmost thanks.

2009-2010 has seen a number of changes take place at RUC. One of these has been a change in the governing policy for our Church. The Church Executive gives way to the Church Council. There will be fewer Committees with changes in Committee memberships. All of the changes, we predict, offer an opportunity to create a new and bright future for Rockingham United Church.

Special thanks to Mary Lou and Lynn for their support and patience, particularly during the past two years.

Respectfully submitted: Noelle Murphy

Outreach

Members: Hardy Roe, Cam MacPhee, Olive Tingley, Doreen Crick, Margaret Steward, Brenda Munro, Fran Paton (Chair). Due to the new Governance Policy we have lost a very treasured and valuable member Joan Aitken, and we thank her for her work and words which were always well thought out. Thanks Joan

It was a good year for our committee with all the usual things going on during the Christmas Season to which our congregation supported and championed. Shoe boxes, sox, underwear, food, money to the Food Bank service to the Brunswick Mission Breakfast (Rockingham is one their biggest supporters both financially through our coffee mornings and physically at the serving of breakfast), bulbs for the Sanctuary Garden, mugs for the breakfast (they seem to disappear as quickly as we send them). Clothing for Brunswick Street and our prays for the persons who find it necessary to be there.

We continue to fund and support "Education Haiti" with our bottles and the work that the money from them can do is remarkable. Keep up the good work.

We presented a "Climate Change" evening that was well presented and well received with Richard Zuraswski and also information for HRM on their climate ideas. Mr. Zuraswski's book is readily available and worth reading. We were also involved in Human Rights Day December 10 and in a lesser way this on Anti-racism day March 21st as our 10 years of presenting a program ended in 2009.

We have plans for next year that we hope everyone will support as they have other efforts we have presented. You are an awesome group of people who take the needs of others very seriously and we as a committee wish to thank you for your generous support of the OUTREACH Committee.

Sincerely, Fran Paton

Pastoral Care

Members: Doreen Martin (Co-ordinator), Joan Aitken, Gerry Butler, Jean McIntyre, Janet McMurtry, Jan Mills, Joan Munro, Sandy Munro, Fran Paton, Bev Pierce, Hardy Roe, Ruth Sutherland, Helen Sweett, Len Sweett, Diane Ward, Jean Wentzell.

During the past year, the Pastoral Care Team has continued to provide support to members of our Church community, especially in times of difficulty, illness and death. We meet once a month with the exception of July and August, and this is done in a confidential setting.

Members of the team attended two workshops, one in October given by The Capital Health Authorities Spiritual and Religious Care Services. The second workshop was in April and was given by Rev. Stew Clarke, Chaplain with the Halifax Presbytery. Both were very informative and led to a time of interesting discussion.

In October and March, we were invited by two congregations, (First Sackville Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Church in Timberlea) to give a presentation to their newly formed pastoral care teams. We were delighted to share our experiences in pastoral care with them.

We are sorry to say goodbye to two long time members of our team, -- Fran Paton and Jean Wentzell. Both will be greatly missed as valuable members of our team, and we thank them sincerely for all they have contributed to pastoral care at Rockingham United.

Respectfully Submitted: Doreen Martin.

Presbytery

Members: Helen Sweett, Fran Paton, William Dodsworth.

Full Court Meetings of Halifax Presbytery have been held on June 16, 2010, September 8, 2009, November 10, 2009, January 12, 2010, March 9, 2010, and May 11, 2010 and attended by Ministry Staff and Presbytery Reps William Dodsworth, Helen Sweet and Fran Paton. Reports on the proceedings have been presented at Rockingham United Church Executive meetings. In addition Helen Sweett attended the monthly Executive Committee Meetings of Halifax Presbytery as Co-chair of the Pastoral Oversight Committees.

The 85th Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference was held in Sackville, New Brunswick from May 27 – May 30, 2010, the theme being " Come and See ". Five proposals were dealt with. Proposal #1 dealt with the United Church of Canada 'Commitment To Inclusion'. Proposal #'2 and #4 were combined

into Proposal #5 and dealt with 'Hospital Chaplaincy'. Proposal #3 dealt with access to Legal Aid. Rockingham United Church was represented by Joe Manchester and William Dodsworth.

Respectively submitted, William Dodsworth.

Stewardship

Members: Barrie Fraser, David Carmichael, Santosh Lall, Ken McLeod and HELPER: Doug Chaytor

The Stewardship Committee continued to suffer from a lack of members this year but, in spite of this, we were able to make progress on 4 initiatives;

1. We have been able to realize a considerable saving by trimming the membership role (and the required Offering Envelopes) to reflect the changes in the RUC community. Many thanks to Judi Goodwin-Kedy and Helen Sweet for their help.
2. We have acquired an unofficial M&S Enthusiast in the person of Doreen Crick, who frequently reminds us all of the good work done by church communities like ours throughout the world for people less fortunate than us.
3. We are almost complete in our efforts to revise and streamline our Offerings Counting procedures. Special thanks to Len Sweet, Alan Schnare and Judi Goodwin-Kedy for their efforts.
4. We have explored (by an internal survey in 2009) an additional funding mechanism involving a plan to centralize the purchase of specific merchant targeted debit cards through a company which acts as a clearing house and organizes the system. RUC would receive a payment of between 2 to 5% on the purchase of these cards. The individuals purchasing these cards would receive a tax credit for the payments. Several other churches in the area are also participating in the plan. The Executive Committee deferred this until future meetings.

Respectively submitted, Dave Carmichael

Trustees

Members: Sam MacKay {Chair}, Don Laing, Hugh Macdonald, Dave Martin, Kay Youle

During the year the Board met two times with no pressing issues to address. We did review our fire insurance coverage and satisfied ourselves we are adequately covered.

Respectfully submitted. Sam MacKay

Worship

Members: June Dickie (Co-chair, Telephone contact, CD Rep.) Fran Paton (Sacraments, Baptism Banners) Louise O'Shaughnessy (Chancel) Barry Mills (Scripture Reader Coordinator) Kaireen Chaytor (Children's Time Coordinator) Dianna Prest (Secretary) Kathy Stone (Music Director), Rev. Paulette Phillips and Anne Forbes (Co-chair, Special Services Coordinator, Advertising).

The Worship Committee is responsible for Sunday worship as well as special services and events that are of a spiritual nature that take place in the sanctuary of Rockingham United Church. Regular

committee meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June. Our committee is active 12 months of the year and new members are always welcome. We would summarize this year as being busy with many new initiatives undertaken with encouragement and the guidance of Rev. Paulette Phillips. The following are the highlights:

During the months of July and August we welcomed the opportunity to share summer worship with Fairview United in 2009 and look forward to doing so again in the summer of 2010. Over the past year 23 individuals served as Co-presiders, who routinely read the announcements and lead the *Prayers of the People* during Sunday worship. A *Minute for Mission* was presented monthly thanks to our Mission Enthusiast Doreen Crick. Under the leadership of Kaireen Chaytor talented Children's Story Tellers were recruited and guidelines were developed for this important ministry. This year liturgical colours were introduced in the sanctuary to follow the Christian calendar and we sincerely thank Donna Schnare for making colourful communion tablecloths and banners for the pulpit and lectern. (We learned these are called antependium cloths.) New antependium cloths for the Advent season were purchased as well as new communion ware and a large print NVSV Bible from Memorial Donation funds.

Our services were enhanced by volunteers who faithfully provided audiovisual support and Power Point presentations weekly. We also appreciate our welcomers and ushers who are the first point of contact and make people feel welcome at RUC.

In an effort to build worship leadership skills, our committee sponsored a day long workshop on Prayer Writing, Scripture Reading and Story Telling in March. We were honoured that Rev. Janice MacLean, Minister for Christian Nurture and Enrichment for Maritime Conference was able to facilitate this event and that both members of the laity and clergy from at least eight different pastoral charges within the Maritimes participated. The event provided an opportunity to learn new skills and to connect with the wider United Church community. We thank Rev. Janice for so generously sharing her time, expertise and resources.

A number of special services were held throughout the year including Remembrance Sunday, Anniversary Sunday with guest speaker Rev. Kevin Little, Guiding and Scouting Week with a special speaker "Akela" Rod Tilley, Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Services, The Service of Lessons and Carols, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Sunrise Easter Services. New members were welcomed to our congregation through baptism, confirmation and transfer of membership on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We held a Prayer Vigil in February to focus on peace and to remember the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Messages were also given throughout the year by Sandra Nichols from Brunswick Street Mission, our Environmental Enthusiast Jessica Wishart who spoke on Climate Change Action, Doreen Crick and Gary Wilson from Rockingham United.

The Ministry of Music is an important aspect of our worship and we are truly blessed to have our wonderful choirs – Youth, and Senior directed by Kathy Stone and Men's directed by Joan Munro to help to make our worship services joyful. Our choirs also presented a Candlelight Carol Concert, An Anniversary Concert with the Men's Choir, a service of Easter Music and Mother's Day Medley and Readings presented by the Youth Choir. Several musicians also shared their talents by playing the flute, harp, trumpet and bagpipes at various services and concerts. A visit from *Step by Step* a Christian music group from PEI in November gave occasion for an evening concert and a lively music themed worship service that was well received. Our congregation has also been learning new hymns from *More Voices* and participates in monthly hymn sings.

A highlight of our church year was a Memorial Hymn Sing held on the evening of April 18. The event was a combined effort of many people including Pastoral Care representatives; our Choirs and other interested persons who planned the program and contacted families of deceased RUC members who were invited to choose a hymn in memory of loved ones. The program included readings, anthems, hymns, beautiful solos and a bagpipe finale. A reception following the event provided by the Pastoral Care Team was a wonderful venue for reunions and renewed friendships. Programs mailed to

individuals who could not attend were greatly appreciated and as I write, thank you notes for this wonderful effort continue to be received. We congratulate and sincerely thank everyone associated with the Memorial Hymn Sing for the many hours spent in planning, practicing and presenting. It was a huge undertaking and a night we will always remember! Thank you so much for keeping the memory of those we love alive.

Our choirs are regularly invited to share their gift of praise in other pastoral charges and we are very proud to have them represent RUC in so many places. We wish our choirs and directors a restful summer!

Worship services rely on the participation of many volunteers and I wish to acknowledge the importance of the ministry of hospitality that our Funeral Reception Committee provides. Thank you for providing support to grieving families in this special way often on very short notice. The work of the Worship Committee is also supported to a great degree by our Administrator Judi Goodwin-Kedy and our Custodian Mark Thornton. Judi and Mark you do a great job of keeping things running smoothly and have proven you can rise to any occasion. We appreciate your being accessible, a great resource to our committee and for being several steps ahead of us in the planning process. We thank you for all you do on our behalf.

On a sad note we were sorry to learn we had lost the leadership of Rev. Paulette Phillips earlier than we had planned. Rev. Paulette encouraged participation and gave many people the chance to plan and lead worship services which will stand us in good stead in the future. She introduced us to new concepts, resources and provided opportunities for our congregation learn and reach out to the wider church community. Thank you so very much Rev. Paulette for being a great mentor and for sharing your gifts through Interim Ministry over the past sixteen months. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

In closing, I must also express my appreciation for my fellow committee members for your patience and commitment. It has been an honour to serve with you again this year.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Forbes, Co-chair

Men's Group

During 2009 the Men's group kept busy with monthly activities. In January we dined out and then attended a Moosehead hockey game. In February we held a pool outing and in March we had a curling outing. In April the men prepared and served a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner to about 100 persons raising in excess of \$1,000 for the operating account. In May we prepared a takeout lobster dinner for about 100 persons once again raising in excess of \$1,000 for operating funds. In May we held a golf outing and during June we closed the season with our annual barbeque hosted by Claude and Mary Lou Isaacs. Under the leadership of Rodger Middleton the men completed a major overhaul of the John Turner Memorial Garden, a vast improvement for that site. This work was completed during the summer. In October we held another golf outing and in November we held another pool outing. In December we held our annual bowling night with ladies invited; followed up with a reception at Claude and Mary Lou Isaacs. In other words we had a lot of fun and shared much camaraderie. The group is loosely formed and all men in the congregation are welcome even if they only attend one or two of the activities that appeal to them.

United Church Women

My first year as President of Rockingham United Church Women is now finished. When I reflect back over 2009, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to be the leader of such a dedicated and caring

Group of Women. I wish to thank the Executive and Active Members for your hard work and support. Let us continue working together in 2010 in loyalty & devotion to Jesus Christ in order to fulfill our UCW Purpose. Thank you to our Home Members and all Members of the Congregation for your continued support. I look forward to serving as your President for 2010.

Yours in faith and service, Avis Densmore-President.

Avis Densmore, along with the Executive, was installed as President of Rockingham United General UCW in January, 2009. The Executive are: Vice-President-Diane Ward, Treasurer-Heather McLearn, Secretary-Joan Aitken, Church in Society-Eve Tupper, Stewardship-Diane Ward, Kitchen Representative-Olive Tingley and Unit Leaders: Clayton Park-Eve Tupper, Jean Hogan-Kay Youle, Laura Wright-Donna Schnare

The UCW is comprised of three units that meet monthly, with the exception of the summer months. We list twenty-nine members, and twenty-five home members. Four new members were welcomed in 2009- two to Clayton Park and two to Jean Hogan. Sadly, a long term member and devoted supporter, Alice Ernst, passed away in July.

At the Annual Presbyterial meeting in February 2009, four former members were recognized during the Memorial Service – Isabella Campbell, Barbara Chaulk, Ena Hills and Jean MacNeill.

The UCW, as in past years, continued to assume responsibility for the church kitchen. This included monthly cleaning, as well as the purchase of a new coffee pot and countertop stove. During the past year we sponsored two congregational drives for the Bayers-Westwood Food Bank and supplied thirty dozen cookies for Berwick Camp in July. Our UCW participated in the World Day of Prayer at St. Peter's Anglican Church in March. A donation of \$125.00 was given to Phoenix House as our contribution toward helping to provide snacks for Phoenix House. This is to be included in our budget in the future. We also collect Campbell's soup labels, used postage stamps and the tabs from tin cans. A gift of appreciation was purchased for Claude Isaacs on his retirement as church custodian in June. Flower planting this summer at the church was looked after by Eve Tupper and Charlotte Wood of the Clayton Park Unit. Our pot luck dinner in May was followed by an informative and interesting talk on "The ABC's of Fraud".

The Candy Cane Carnival in November is always one of the highlights of the year in our church family. Organized by the UCW, it brings together people of all ages who help contribute to its success. We continued this year to serve a Turkey Dinner, and had, as well, our usual sale tables, with the addition of a jewellery table, which proved to be very popular. We are so grateful to all who support us at this event. Our year closed with a Christmas social, with warm clothing collected for homeless men.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Aitken, Secretary.

Christian Development

The 2009-2010 season was a challenging year for the CD committee. Annika Sangster, who had written curriculum for and organised the Sunday school, finished her contract with Rockingham United and accepted a position with another church. Both Brenda Munroe and Debbie Williams resigned from the committee, so we were left with only three members.

We began the Sunday school season early in September with 15 children registering. We continued to use the rotation model for Sunday school and purchased the "Power Express" curriculum, one recommended by the United Church. This was well received by the children as it had many interesting

activities. The Sunday school again presented a Christmas pageant, written and directed by Crystal Wentzell. The older children in Sunday school developed a project based on the Power Express rotation "Women of the Bible". They filmed interviews with women involved with Rockingham United, and presented the film in church. The Sunday school season ended with BBQ after church on May 30th. It was well attended by many members and enjoyed by all.

The CD committee participated in the annual Candy Cane carnival by organizing and running the children's activities. Monies realized from this event are being used for Sunday school outreach projects. Each church committee was asked by the executive committee to hold one fundraising event. As we are such a small group we decided to hold a plant sale. This was a successful event raising \$290.00.

Planning has begun for the 2010-2011 season. We are continuing to use the rotation model for Sunday school. We hope to set up a separate group for older children (pre-teen) and gear the activities to their age and interest. We also hope to develop a newsletter for parents, informing them of our calendar and planned events. The biggest challenge for the coming season will be to increase the membership of the CD committee and number of Sunday school teachers available.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Taweel

NOTE: Rockingham United Church Audited Financial Statement and UCW Financial Statement are appended as separate documents.