



OUR MISSION:

To share God's Love
Living the teachings of Jesus:
showing mercy, promoting justice,
offering forgiveness,
acceptance and hope

2021 Annual Report

(January 1 – December 31, 2021)



Our vision...

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Everyone is welcome here.

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

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This document contains original reports as submitted by their authors. These reports are unedited, with no errors or omissions being recognized or changed. Reports not contained within were not received by publication date.

Knox United Church

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11

As we entered another year with COVID 19, the above words gave me comfort. Many of us feel the drain of being isolated from each other, we were just starting to hope about returning to a “normal” lifestyle again; only to have the rug pulled out from under us with the introduction of the Omicron strain and its dramatic result on our population. Our plans for 2021 were drastically affected and you will see this impact on our financial position in our Finance Committee’s report.

But there have been many highlights over the past year where steps have certainly been taken to help us prosper, hope and build a sustainable future. The search for a full-time Minister was started early in the year by our Search & Selection Committee. Thanks to the members of this team and their time and efforts; we welcomed Rev. Penny Nelson as our new Minister in November, 2021.

Our Pastoral Care Team has been busy this past year trying to stay in touch with members of our congregation as we were not able to meet in person, and with those who are experiencing health issues or personal trials. These dedicated members reach out and strengthen our connection as a congregation and provide a welcome voice, a warm laugh and sometimes a strong shoulder.

Our Spiritual Oversight Committee stayed busy determining ways we could provide worship service during COVID, how to return to safe in-person worship, how we could share and celebrate God’s love while keeping our congregation’s health and safety as our main priority. And then quickly pivoting back to live-stream services during Advent one of our most important seasons.

Our Ministry & Personnel Team were extremely busy this year. We hired 5 students this year for the Summer to work the ice cream stand increasing the scope of the team. We welcomed Mary-Beth Fancy as our new Office Administrator in July. We said farewell to Rev. Sandra Cox as she retired from Knox in November after three years as our minister, advisor and friend. We hired student minister, Max Martin, for vacation coverage during the Summer. Just because we’re not in church does not mean we are not a busy church!

While operated at arms-length, our Lower Sackville Nursery School underwent a huge change in structure and now operates as a full-time Daycare. What is the difference? It means that we had to change our license and we now offer full-day programs and are open year-round among other benefits. As part of our long-term plan, we continue to work with the staff of LSNS and thank-you to Dave Duggan and Janet Hadley for their dedication, time and efforts to this important initiative.

Through the year, our Council continued to meet (via Zoom) and discuss the many happenings, at both Knox and in our province. We also managed to hold three congregational meetings in July, September and November to discuss the business of Knox including the clergy recommendations.

As we head into 2022, COVID 19 is still with us, yet as always, our faith provides us with a guiding light, a glimmer of hope at the end of each day – that tomorrow will be better and that there is a greater plan. In the Hebrew Bible, Ezra was an ancient Jewish priest and one of the leaders of Israel when they returned from exile to rebuild Jerusalem and Solomon’s Temple. While he lived around 480 BC, his words still inspire today: *“Rise up...take courage and do it.” Ezra 10:4*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

Let us take hold of these words and put them into action. We have already started to put a fundraising calendar together for the year, we have lots of great musical events and some Knox favourites in the works. Knox United is a faith family that relies on each other. We continue to face challenges head-on, while looking towards a bright future. We'll continue to work hard. We have the courage, the strength and the faith to keep our congregation, our ministry and our community one of the best around!

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth Martin, Chair – Knox Council*

MINISTER'S REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

My ministry began at Knox United on November 1st, 2021, and I hit the ground running! The first six weeks of my ministry included:

- Meeting with many individual Chairpersons, Teams, and Committees of Knox, including the Council to get to know what each Team and Committee does, and get up-to-speed on the church's plans for 2022.
- Offering pastoral care to folks from Knox through phone calls, emails, and in-person meetings. My pastoral care also included leading a funeral for a Knox congregation family in November and follow-up grief care.
- Getting to know the community of Sackville through meeting other ministry colleagues and community service partners such as the Library and the Cobequid Partners Group who focus on local outreach. I also attended a Peace and Friendship Treaty Education event hosted by Faith Baptist Church to connect with a local Mi'kmaw elder and other churches interested in reconciliation work in the Sackville area.
- Tried my best to learn more people's names each week after worship! (Thank you to everyone who wore their name tags—this really helped!)
- Worked with John Lindsay-Botten, the Worship Team and the Pastoral Care Team to make plans for Advent and Christmas worship services.

I want you all to know how happy I was to get to know you more as the weeks went on—to meet some of you face to face, to learn your names, and learn more about you as a congregation! I felt like I was just hitting my stride at Knox when, six weeks in, the Omicron wave hit Nova Scotia, and the Knox United Church Council made the difficult but wise decision to close down in-person gatherings for the rest of 2021. As such, John, myself, Mary-Beth Fancy, the Pastoral Care Team and the Worship Team along with the choir and a small, dedicated crew of folks who help with our online ministries had to pivot quickly to create new plans for The Longest Night, a child-friendly Christmas Eve worship, the Christmas Eve communion worship, Boxing Day and the January 2nd worship services. I am so grateful to everyone who gave of their time and talents in those last few days before Christmas to offer such a meaningful two weeks of worship for our congregation and the wider community! This could not have happened without you.

Although I know my report is only supposed to cover the calendar year for 2021, I want to share some of my thoughts on my ministry with you for 2022.

MINISTER'S REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

First of all, it has been difficult to be your minister without weekly, in-person contact with you as a congregation, and I have done my best to offer you quality worship and pastoral care, along with Rev. Kym Burke and the Pastoral Care Team. By the time we can gather again for in-person ministry (whether that is worship, Sunday School, book studies, or committee meetings), I will have been ministering to you longer in an “online-only” format than when we were in-person in November and December. As such, you need to remember that there is so much about you as individuals and as a congregation that I still don't know, and you will need to be patient with me as I learn your names and faces again! I have also missed out on our weekly check-ins before or after worship to hear how you are doing and so, I hope you will be gracious in sharing with me the stories of your lives, what you've been thinking about and how you've been doing during these first few months of 2022.

Second, as I reflect on my hopes for Knox in 2022, I am reminded of this passage from the prophet Jeremiah: *“This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ‘Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce...Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper... For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”* (Jeremiah 29: 4-5, 6b-7, 11)

Living through COVID has, at times, felt like living in exile. We long to be together “like we used to be”—when we could hold hymn books, gather without masks, hug each other (if you're a hugger), and eat together. We miss the way things were before, and we want to go back. But Jeremiah reminds us that, just because we find ourselves in a strange new world, that does not mean we have permission to stop living or dreaming for the future *because God has plans for us! Plans to give us hope, and give us a future!*

So, this year, I hope we will come back to Jeremiah's words of wisdom again and again and find ways to make life together as a congregation in this time and place. I look forward to the re-opening of Sunday School and youth group, to sharing songs in choir practices, and going deeper in our faith together through small groups, study sessions, and beautiful worship. I look forward to us seeking the peace and prosperity of the city through the ministry of Freedom Kitchen and working with other partner groups to offer compassionate blessings to those who live in the Sackville area. I look forward to all the ways we will live out the words we say every week in worship: *“All are welcome in this place. All are welcome by God's grace”*—because we surely will! Not all of the ways we will do this will be the same as they were before, and it's okay to mourn that. But we cannot let our longing to “go back to the way things were before” keep us from living the life God has given us to live *right now*, in this time and place. Life can't wait for the end of COVID before it is lived again.

So, this year, as we learn how to make life in the midst of COVID, let us trust that God is still with us. God has plans for us—plans that give us hope and a future! All we need to do is listen, live, and trust.

*With Blessings,
Rev. Penny Nelson*

SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The role of the Spiritual Oversight Committee at Knox United Church (in conjunction with its Minister(s)) is to exercise leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life and interests of the congregation and to formulate policies pertinent to the many areas related to the total worship experience.

The Spiritual Oversight Committee is presently made up of 15 Elders, many of whom are part of smaller, more specific teams. These teams include: Worship, Pastoral Care, Baptism, Communion, Memorial, New Families, Sunday School, Visitation and our Funeral Wake Team. The Spiritual Oversight Committee met via Zoom on the third Tuesday of January thru June and continued virtually September thru November. Each of the various teams also met on a regular basis (virtually with some in-person meetings) throughout the year.

2021 was yet again another epic COVID-19 year for Knox, bringing both the very best and the very worst - of everything – horrible tragedy one minute and awe-inspiring grace, beauty and care the next. It began with defining who we are as a congregation and discerning our path forward in ministry. This dialogue evolved through the work of Knox's Faith Profile Team and was continued in the prayerful deliberations and successful results of our Ministry Search Team. March 15th 2021 marked our one-year Affirmation Anniversary, and a day when once again Knox joyfully declared, "All are welcome in this place, All are welcome by God's grace!" With careful preparation, and strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols, we twice briefly returned to pre-registered in-person worship in our Sanctuary, and then closed again when local cases re-surfed. Virtual services continued via live streaming or advance recording.

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we welcomed Scott Gregory Martin as Knox's newest Elder. We are so thankful to have a new member to share in the life and work of our Faith community. With regret, we also said goodbye to one of our beloved long-serving Elders and Secretary, Beth Robinson, whose many years of service to all in our Faith Community was a blessing, and whose quilted artwork (Baptismal and Affirmation banners) continue to bring grace and beauty to our Sacred Space. Sandra Braye also stepped down as an Elder to become the Chair of Knox's Property Team and focus her many talents in that area.

17 January 2021, marked the passing of Reverend Gordon Cann. Rev. Gordon was a minister of Knox, in the 1980s, and it is after him that our Cann Hall was named. We give thanks for his living ministry, his stories, humour and heart. May his memory and influence continue to bless Knox forever.

Reverend Sandra Cox continued to answer and faithfully serve in the third year of her Interim Ministry Call to Knox United Church, until 31 October 2021, where she was a rich blessing to all in our Faith community. Our profound joy is tempered with sadness in her departure, as we express our deepest thanks for her caring and compassionate ministry.

Throughout this year, Knox Minister Emeritus, Reverend Bob Chapman also lent his thoughtful words and compassionate pastoral care to several of our worship services. His deep spiritual connection with all in our Faith family and quick humour, helped shine His Light in even the darkest corner - Thank you.

After long and prayerful consideration by our Ministry Search Team, Reverend Penny Nelson answered the Ministry Call of Knox United Church, 1 November 2021. Coming to us from Sharon United in Tatamagouche, Rev. Penny brings with her: experience in caring and compassionate child, youth, and young adult ministry, with a strong passion for outreach. Welcome to Knox Rev. Penny! May your ministry with us be uplifting and rewarding.

SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

And, the deliberations of Knox's Ministry Search Team were not yet complete. At a Congregational meeting on November 20th, Reverend Kym Burke was named as Knox's Minister of Pastoral Care. Rev. Kym comes to us from Lawrencetown-Lake Echo United, where she is currently still their part-time Minister, and an Atlantic School of Theology (M.A. Theology and Religious Studies) student, bringing with her a deep love of people and the ocean. We are excited for our paths to cross and connect, and for you to get to know our Faith family. Welcome to Knox Rev. Kym!

And our very own, Max Martin, Confirmed as a Candidate for Ordination in the spring of 2018, continues to study at the Atlantic School of Theology, where he is now in his final year of Divinity studies. Knox was privileged to have had Max lead several worship services this year. SOC recognizes and celebrates Max's success on his path to Ministry, and looks forward to his Ordination, in the Spring of 2022.

Since Knox was not certified as a Learning Site for 2021, the opportunity to mentor another student minister was not offered this year.

On March 28th, we celebrated the Baptisms of Reign James Fifield and Everlee Charlotte Christine MacFarlane. May God bless them and hold their hearts close in His love.

We also celebrated the Confirmations of Holly and Rainie Murphy (April 4th), and Tara Lee Forhan (October 10th), welcoming them into Knox's Faith family. May their threads be bright in God's wondrous colourful tapestry of life.

2021 also saw the joyful (and much anticipated) Celebration of Marriage between Rachael Martin and Andrew Alexander. SOC extends our heartfelt Congratulations! on their union.

Three new families joined Knox United, in the fall of 2021: Jan and Emma Kempffer, Pat Hammond, and Brenda Burchell, enriching the fabric of our congregation. SOC welcomes you into our community of Faith and prays that you may find your Spirits uplifted and your hearts warmed by His love, as you worship with us.

Funerals and Life Memorials were commemorated at Knox United Church, for the following members: Lloyd Burns (8 January), Rick Nursey (13 April), Lillian Wiley (8 May), Jane Reimer (23 June), Cathy Fish (5 August), Shirley Singer (24 October), Dorthea McLaughlin (26 November), Keith Humby (4 December), David Young (18 December) and Lee Cox (28 December). Funerals and Life Memorials were also conducted for several people who were not members of Knox's congregation who, for clarity, are memorialized at the end of Knox's Annual Report. May God bless them all with the Peace of Christ and continue to hold their families and loved ones close in His Love forever.

For Knox, 2021 was another year for remembering, for drawing us close together and celebrating family (of all shapes and sizes), and all of the differences that make each of us so special in God's sight. We remember and hold close to our hearts the families and loved ones impacted by violence, tragedy and COVID-19, this past year.

SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

The Sacrament of Communion was celebrated February 17th (Ash Wednesday, in-person), February 21st (Lent, in-person), April 1st (Maundy Thursday, live-streamed), April 4th (Easter, live-streamed), October 2nd (Worldwide Communion Sunday, in-person), December 5th (White and Pink Gift Sunday, live-streamed) and pre-recorded for December 24th (Christmas Eve). Following COVID-19 protocols, home communion was mostly observed virtually; and, individual Sacramental Communion cups offered to congregants unable to connect to virtual services, on request through Knox's Church Office.

With changing limits on summer gatherings and the increased virulence of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, we were unable to hold outdoor services in Acadia Park, again this year. We look forward to holding future services there, when restrictions ease.

At the start of 2021, after an in-depth inspection, Knox's beloved Sanctuary organ was deemed a health and safety hazard. It has since been disconnected to prevent its accidental use, and to mitigate its potential as a fire hazard. An Ad Hoc Committee was raised to meet with Colin Walsh (an organ re-fitter from Terrance Bay). Since this initial meeting, a local church (First Baptist, in Dartmouth) said that they no longer needed theirs, and offered to donate their historic Cassavante organ, which could be blended with our organ to create a superior musical instrument for worship. While it was felt that our own organ could not be restored, there are many parts of it that are still in good working order. The donation offer was time sensitive, and now, First Baptist's Cassavante organ is in storage in our downstairs Choir Room. The Organ Committee investigated the repair/replacement of our organ, options, and funding, and a report is due at Knox's next Annual General Meeting.

Under the direction of Knox's Communications Team, we continued to live-stream and pre-record our worship services. And, with the assistance of Knox's Finance Team to apply for grant funding, we upgraded our live-streaming equipment to provide a higher fidelity broadcast, while improving our storage and streaming capabilities. Sanctuary modifications now include a dedicated space for audio and live-stream recording. We have so many on-line viewers locally and worldwide, watching and worshipping with us. This is an amazing ministry which would not be possible without an outstanding and dedicated team of volunteers – to whom SOC extends our heartfelt THANK YOU!

Listed below are some of the many things that made Knox such an extraordinary place, in 2021:

- Rev. Penny Nelson, Rev. Sandra Cox, Brian Botten, Rev. Bob Chapman, Bill Hale, Rev. David Hart and Max Martin who provided worship leadership over several services this year. And especially, to John Lindsay-Botten, for his talented personal music ministry in our Sunday services, and for fostering small-group musicians which animated and uplifted the Spirit in our Worship. To once again see and listen to a Christmas Cantata being sung in Knox's Sanctuary was wondrous!
- Our entire Pastoral Care Team, for their unflagging and heartfelt work in ministering to all in our faith community during this especially difficult second COVID-19 year – a simple Thank you! can't convey the value of your care, or the heights to which you lifted our spirits. A detailed report of their amazing work follows.

SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

- A plaque inside our Sanctuary was dedicated in memory of the life of Shirley Singer, a woman of quick wit and sparkling eyes, who was a longstanding active and beloved member of Knox. And, under the leadership of the Time-Out for Ladies Team (Judy Hoolihan), a second plaque was dedicated in memory of the life of Maureen Brown and was placed to the left of Knox's Narthex elevator (in support of which, she had baked so many delicious rolls and goodies).
- A huge, "Thank you!" goes out to Lynn Stewart for continuing in her role of Superintendent of our Sunday School. Although COVID-19 restrictions were not kind to our Sunday School, again this year Lynn shone for her young students. For Lent, Thanksgiving and again for Advent, Lynn and her team created activity packages (both in paper and on-line), to bring the love and joy of Lent/Easter, Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas into the homes of our young families. A big note of appreciation also goes out to Reverend Sandra Cox (and later in November/December, to Reverend Penny Nelson), for their care in creating a special time and place for our children to worship and 'get to know' God. Rev. Sandra's Wednesday 'Children's Time' broadcasts and Rev. Penny's Sunday Time for All Ages stories (especially the one about the acorn) were big hits!
- On December 21st, the Longest Night service was once again live-streamed by our Pastoral Care Team. A singular Christmas Eve service with Communion was pre-recorded this year, as well as a separate Christmas Eve Message just for our children. Special thanks to our Worship Team, and to all of the talented spiritual animators and musicians with whom, in Christ, our services were made rich with 'comfort and joy'.

The Spiritual Oversight Committee is thankful to have been able to work with a dedicated ministry team in 2021. They include:

- Rev. Sandra Cox (Minister)
- Rev. Penny Nelson (Minister)
- Rev. Kym Burke (Minister)
- Rev. Bob Chapman (Minister Emeritus)
- John Lindsay-Botten (Music Director)
- Don McRae (Music Director Emeritus)
- Tracey Miller (Church Office Administrator)
- Mary Beth Fancy (Church Office Administrator)

Respectfully submitted;
Nancy Kent, Chair SOC

PASTORAL CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Knox Pastoral Care Team has continued its work over the past year despite the challenges posed by Covid. The team is made up of a group of caring and compassionate congregational members who recognize that there are many times individuals need to know there are others who are available to connect with them when they are experiencing hardships in their lives. Through our varied ministries we reach out to those who are facing the burden of illness, loneliness, grief, loss of independence and to those who simply need to hear a friendly voice.

PASTORAL CARE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

Supporting, sharing with; and caring for those who will benefit from these connections continues to guide the work of our team members.

During the year hospital, nursing home, and home visits were rarely possible, so we connected with members of our church family by phone to let them know that their church family cares for them. We look forward to visiting in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

Our card ministry plays an important role by sending get well, sympathy, and thinking of you cards. Cards with best wishes for milestone birthdays and anniversaries and Christmas cards are also sent.

Thanks to support from the Freedom Kitchen "Adopt a Senior" campaign we delivered gifts to a number of our seniors.

Knitted teddy bears are given to children who are ill or facing a difficult situation and are presented to babies baptized at Knox.

Although we have not been able to have a grief support group in light of Covid restrictions, one-to-one support has been offered to multiple individuals over the past year. This is primarily a ministry of listening and empathy.

The prayer chain has continued to be active and currently has 11 members who share prayer requests, respecting privacy and personal information. We have received much feedback on answered prayers. Prayer requests are varied and come from multiple sources. Prayer shawls give warmth, hope, love, comfort, and peace to those who are ill, grieving, or are in crisis to comfort and surround them with the knowledge that they are loved.

In the fall we resumed our monthly worship services, with strict Covid protocols, at Sagewood and Ivy Meadows nursing homes and expanded to include Ivany Place in Bedford. Thankfully we held our Christmas services just before tighter restrictions were imposed. The Longest Night service was live streamed on December 21st. Christmas is a difficult time for many and this service of light in the darkness offers comfort, peace, love and hope.

Our team owes much to Rev. Sandra Cox who shared her excellent pastoral care skills with us for the past three and a half years. She has a natural talent for connecting with individuals and her kindness and compassion is felt in all her interactions with young and old alike. Our hope and prayer is that part of her legacy will be our carrying on the example she has set for us. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with her.

In November we welcomed Rev Penny Nelson to Knox. She has been very supportive and shows compassion, empathy and a genuine interest in getting to know the people at Knox. In January Rev Kym Burke will be joining us as Minister of Pastoral Care and we look forward to working with her as we look ahead and together strive to meet the needs of our Knox Church Family

Thank you to the members of our team who continue to share their love, compassion, time, and talents and we ask for God's blessing as we continue to offer pastoral care in our church and community.

We are always glad to invite new members to join us in this ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,
Judy Hayes and Olive McIldoon
Pastoral Care Team Leads*

BAPTISMAL TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Covid has played havoc with the world, but it does not stop children being brought to Jesus. We managed to have two baptisms for 2021.

Thank you to all involved on the baptism team, Olive, Vanessa and Nancy.

1. Reign James Fifield – son of Hayley Carr and Joey Fifield.
2. Everlee Charlotte Christine MacFarlane – daughter of Christopher and Jasmine MacFarlane.

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021

*Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Chisholm*

WORSHIP TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Worship Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month and, throughout the pandemic, by Zoom. We meet once a month from January to June (except during Lent), and from September to December, depending upon the issues. The team is currently made up of the following members: Gardia Voerman (Chair), Pat Galbraith (Secretary), the minister, Vanessa Voerman (SOC rep), Florence Carman, Carolyn Silver-Crouse, Dale Fleming, and John Lindsay-Botten. At our January 2021 meeting, I (Gardia Voerman) was elected as chairperson and Pat Galbraith was elected as secretary. In October, we bid a fond farewell to Rev. Sandra Cox, and a warm welcome to Rev. Penny Nelson in November.

The team provides help and support to the minister in the planning of the services, and sometimes we are called upon to assist during special services, such as Easter, Thanksgiving, the church's anniversary, and Christmas. During our meetings, the team does not make decisions on all matters pertaining to the church as a whole, but we can make recommendations to the Spiritual Oversight Committee in regard to a certain procedure or course of action.

Under the auspices of Jean Collier, the Decorating Team adorns the sanctuary and narthex during special celebrations, and Judy MacIntosh's lovely flower arrangements are most appreciated. Florence Carman looks after finding people to read scripture. Her job is a little more difficult during the pandemic, so if that is something you would like to do, please call the church office. I would like to thank these volunteers for their dedication.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gardia Voerman, Chair*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Music leadership came in various forms in 2021 due to the pandemic. Whether it was virtual or live or in the form of individual voices, duos/trios/quartets, smaller groups of choir members and fuller choir numbers during the year. We had a different, but hopefully effective music presentation each Sunday (and special service).

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

Andrew and Beth Cranston provided professional and caring music leadership the 3 weeks I was on holiday. We were certainly glad they could assist during the pre-recording of our Christmas cantata as well (compiled of well-loved anthems and some new-to-the-choir gems as well), both “in the can” and “under the wire” before the Omicron variant forced closure of in-person worship mid-December. Plus, having worship pre-recorded for Christmas Eve, December 26 AND January 2, 2022 (all by December 22) saved a week of music supply for the church. I was satisfied that we accomplished this during The Most Wonderful (and busy) Time of the Year, too.

Other music-related worship choir highlights included our offerings on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Joanna Butler came to share her song “Forevermore” twice - first in April (written and presented for the 1-year anniversary of the Portapique mass shootings), then re-written musically (and arranged by me) and presented on Remembrance Sunday, both times with Sarah Krawiec on violin (after she played the Last Post and Reveille on the trumpet). In addition, Stacey Allan, Michael James and Michelle Calder sang on the first Sunday of Advent, plus Michael Butz, Nick Murray, Moira McDonald and Steve Tugwell assisted instrumentally on occasion as well as our own Tony Mombourquette.

Anniversary Sunday also proved to be a special occasion. Our choir was in full force, singing my new anthem of legacy called “There Is a Reason Why We Sing” (with words co-written by Kevin Parks). Plus, our choir farewell gift to Reverend Sandra (a surprise presentation of The Holy City, no less) was very well received.

As Reverend Penny Nelson joined us in November and December, one highlight included her singing a solo from the pulpit. (Thank you, Reverend Penny!) Thank you, as well, to Don MacRae, our Music Director Emeritus, who came back for our Anniversary Sunday, and other times on occasion to sing.

Turning quickly to Event ministry, the plan to have a 3-concert fundraising weekend of community Christmas presentations got “kiboshed” thanks to the Omicron uptick. A same or similar plan could be in place in 2022, all being well. Let’s hope that other plans can be experienced, too, for the spring summer AND fall of 2022.

*Respectfully, and with gratitude,
John Lindsay-Botten*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Our committee has 8 members. Due to Covid all communications during this past year have been through email.

On behalf of Knox United the Outreach Committee:

- Monetary donated to the following organizations: Beacon House, Boys and Girls Club Sackville, Shelter Nova Scotia, Meals on Wheels, Gateway Food Bank, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, Coverdale Courtwork Society, Laing House, Brunswick Street Mission and Freedom Kitchen. Also assisted two individuals in the community who needed financial support.
- Five hundred dollars to purchase gift cards for Knox Benevolent Fund due to high demand for financial assistance during Covid.
- Collected and delivered personal care items to Shelter Nova Scotia

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

- Collected non perishable goods for Freedom Kitchen during bread basket month.
- Collected cereal for Beacon House.
- Collected 100 boxes of stuffing for Christmas hampers for Beacon House.
- Coordinated the collection of mitts, hats, socks and scarves, socks and distributed them to: Hillside Park, Sycamore Lane, Sackville Heights, Beaverbank Kinsac Elementary Schools, Knox Preschool, Beaverbank Kinsac Children Centre, First Friends Day Care, Shelter Nova Scotia, Boys and Girls Club Sackville, Beacon House Food Bank, Adsum House, Freedom Kitchen and to several families in the community that were in need.
- Coordinated the baking and delivery of 18 dozen muffins to the Breakfast Program at Sycamore Lane Elementary, from January to June. This provides a muffin to every child in the school. A real treat and greatly appreciated by the children and staff. Thanks so much to the congregation members and community helpers for making this possible.
- Sorted and delivered White Gifts to the Sackville heights Community Center for the Christmas Cheer Program
- Sorted and delivered Pink Gifts to Adsum House
- Collected glasses for the Lions Club to distribute in Third World Countries

Wayne Bumbury has resigned as our representative on the Beacon House Board, due to health concerns. We are extremely grateful to Wayne for his work with Beacon House over the past number of years and for representing Knox on the Beacon House Board. He and Doris have been picking up the donation from the narthex and delivering them to Beacon House regularly. We send our sincere appreciation and wishes for good health in the days to come.

In light of Wayne's resignation the Outreach Committee is looking for someone to fill this position. If you are interested please contact Caroline.

*Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Gallop, Chair*

FREEDOM KITCHEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Freedom Kitchen continues to provide support to those experiencing challenges with food security in our local community. This includes people from all segments of society. Many have lost their employment due to COVID 19, some have fixed/limited income or are living on a disability pension, some live with other complications such as housing insecurity; these are just a few of the clients we serve weekly.

Since September, 2021, we have screened and welcomed 50 new volunteers, most of whom are community members. They all have a common goal and that is to help those in need or to pay it forward because they understand that life circumstances often put us in a position where we can use some support.

We have established a schedule of 4 cooking teams, with 5-7 people/team. Each team prepares 350-400 meals one Monday a month, which is served by other volunteers from the Freedom Kitchen Building between 4-6 pm.

FREEDOM KITCHEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

There are 5 delivery routes with 5 drivers, who deliver 103 meals each week to those who do not have a vehicle, have mobility issues or cannot otherwise get to Freedom Kitchen to pick up a meal. We now deliver to Beaver Bank with the support of the Beaverbank Lion's Club. We are presently looking for a driver to deliver to Middle Sackville as we have a waiting list for households needing assistance in that area. This past year we have served 19,200 meals. This is a total of 39,200 meals in total since starting Freedom Kitchen in October 2019!

We continue to partner with Second Harvest – a food rescue program where food that has been deemed surplus, or is coming close to its due date and has not sold is donated to charity. This partnership has built solid relationships between Freedom Kitchen and Sobeys. We pick items up from Sobeys First Lake on Monday, Thursday and Saturday; we pick items up from Sobeys Elmsdale on Monday. We also receive items from Gate Gourmet at Halifax International Airport, the catering service provider to Air Canada. Through this partnership with Second Harvest, we received rescued food equivalent to:

- \$39,900.66 value
- 12, 194 meals

COBS Bread in Bedford is a locally owned and operated business who also provide us with donated baked goods as an independent program. On Thursdays and Saturdays, we have 4 teams of volunteers who pick up the baked goods, take them to Freedom Kitchen and bag them in preparation to give away.

Square Roots is a Sackville-based food program through Acadia Hall, where bundles of locally sourced produce are sold at an affordable price increasing access to this important food group. Any remaining bundles are donated to Freedom Kitchen. Food that comes through these food rescue programs is placed on racks and put out for people to take what they need each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. We again have regular volunteers who come to assist with this program and enable us to get the food out. We post on Facebook that food is available, but there is now a regular client base who know when our food rescues come in and often there is a lineup of people waiting for us to open. Any surplus items that we have are shared with Gateway Foodbank and Beacon House.

We regularly receive phone calls through the office, messages through FaceBook, in-person inquiries, and lately, a number of care-providers in the area reaching out to us with information on families in our community who are in immediate need of food. We prepare food hampers for those in immediate need of 2-3 days supply of food from the donations received from our congregation and community. We have been filling 20-25 hampers per month during this past year.

Our Freedom Closet, offers warm outerwear and footwear to anyone in need. We handle these requests on an individual basis and make them by appointment only to provide confidentiality and respect to those using our services. This year, we began to receive donations from Mark's Work Warehouse Dartmouth and Bedford for distribution through this program. The Royal Diaperer in Sackville, continues to support our cause by accepting clothing donations from the community during regular business hours.

Freedom Kitchen enjoys and relies upon the donations and generosity from our congregation, our community and our Corporate partners. Cars R Us continue to accept donations of non-perishable food throughout the year, and accepts our "Adopt a Senior" gifts at Christmas time. The food donations stock our pantry for use in

FREEDOM KITCHEN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

preparing our meals as well as our food hampers. Our “Adopt A Senior” program provides a Christmas gift to each of our delivery clients, the residents of Sagewood, Ivy Meadows and Ivany Place along with patients requiring stay over the holidays at NS Rehabilitation Centre and to our Pastoral Care team for distribution to some of our faith family members who are alone during the holiday season.

Freedom Kitchen operates on the generosity of our congregation and community. No operational budget is dedicated to Freedom Kitchen and the donations received go directly to support this outreach program. This year, we received donations from Cavalier Drive area residents at Christmas collected during their community parade, Green Tree Recycling Depot donated money raised from their customers. The Credit Union Atlantic Sackville branch, TD Bank Sackville Branch, Freeman’s Little New York Sackville have all made monetary donations through the year. But it is the on-going generosity of individuals that provides the sustainability of the program. For each and every donor – we give thanks and pray that God’s blessings touch your life and bring you happiness and health.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Gallop, Co-Coordinator
Beth Martin, Co-Coordinator

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The year 2021 proved to be another challenging year for everyone. We said goodbye to Tracey Miller as office administrator and welcomed Mary-Beth Fancy. On the same note we said goodbye to Rev. Sandra Cox and welcomed Rev. Penny Nelson. We also look forward to welcoming Rev. Kym Burke as pastoral care minister in January of 2022.

Rev. Penny Nelson, John Lindsay-Botten and Mary-Beth Fancy did a great job keeping us informed of everything happening in our church and recording Sunday services. Also congratulations to all three on our Christmas service which was supposed to be in person but at the last minute had to be broadcast due to covid restrictions. We are grateful to all our wonderful staff.

Ministry and Personnel have four members: Heather Robinson, Pauline Stanick, Gardia Voerman and Paul O’Brien. Beth Robinson retired to PEI and is sorely missed. We would appreciate having at least three more members on this team. Please contact the office or anyone on the committee if you think this would be of interest to you.

This committee is confidential and therefore, no specifics are reported. Any concerns from the staff or congregation are treated privately. Staff reviews are conducted annually usually beginning in March.

M&P would like to thank Beth Martin for all the support she has provided to the staff and M&P over this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Robinson, Chair

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Our Property Committee ensures that the physical building of Knox United Church is well maintained, provides a clean and safe space for our congregation, our ministries and initiatives, and our community. In May, the long-time service, husband & wife team, Mannie and Eleanor Lewis retired from the Property Team. Their contributions to Knox are too numerous to itemize, and their dedication and service to Knox are sincerely appreciated. We wish them years of happiness and health as they spend more of their time with family and friends.

One of the first items was to have Council's permission to establish an operating budget so that funds were available on an as needed basis. This provided the Property Team the ability to manage projects efficiently and address smaller "emergencies" as they occurred. Since May, the following maintenance has been initiated:

- Rain gutters cleaned and repaired
- Removal of pigeons from roof soffits at office entrance (one more step to completion)
- Dead tree branches pruned and cleared
- Florence St entrance – chain installed
- Flood in ladies bathroom (main floor) cleaned
- Toilet repairs
- Upper level washrooms made secure and more user friendly
- Rodent Management contract implemented
- Snow Removal contract implemented
- Regular lawn maintenance & yardwork
- Cleaned dedication cornerstone at main entrance to Sanctuary
- Solar panel maintenance
- Replaced window screens in the sanctuary
- Signage installed/updated as needed
- Door knobs repaired or replaced
- Installed door stops throughout building
- Light bulbs replaced as needed
- Painted office door to repair damage from signage removal

Also included under Property Management is the security of our building. Jerry Landry continues to serve our congregation through management of this area. Security consists of a team of volunteers who walk through the building and ensure it is secure each night. Each room must be checked for heat settings and each internal and external doors are checked to make sure they are closed and locked. Many thanks to the individuals who do this important job.

Security includes the maintenance of all internal and external locks and management and record-keeping of the keys. This is important to ensure that our building is always secure and that the correct people have access to the appropriate areas. A project this year was to switch the various locks from one master key to lock specific keys. This change helps us keep access to the various areas of our building more secure and increases the protection of our assets.

Jerry is also an electrician and his skills are utilized on a regular basis keeping lights and heat functioning. Thank you, Jerry. You are a tremendous asset to Knox, and I very much appreciate your knowledge, expertise, and willingness to step up and lend a hand.

For the upcoming year, the goal is to keep Knox up and running efficiently and to begin investigations for replacing the carpets in the Sanctuary and Narthex. Please feel free to contact me with any property related issue at maintenance@knoxsackville.ca

*Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Braye, Chair*

LOWER SACKVILLE NURSERY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

With the expansion of the Pre-Primary program to all HRCE schools, Lower Sackville Nursery School had seen a continual decline in the number of children enrolling within the program, in both our Senior and Junior Preschool programs.

From January to June the Lower Sackville Nursery School continued operate with lower student numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions and several months where students were not attending at all. Provincial wage subsidies and operational grants kept the program viable and teachers employed. The Director and some teachers took this opportunity to upgrade the classrooms and equipment as well as purging older out of date equipment.

During the latter part of the 2020-21 school term it was proposed that the Lower Sackville Nursery School (LSNS) transition from a part-day program to a full-day program in order that the operation would become more viable.

During the 2020-21 school year the program was running at about half-capacity, with 47/72 positions being filled – this was pre-Covid-19. A poll of parents at that time indicated that every child who was eligible for Pre-Primary would be attending that program and a wait list of only 8 children interested in a part-day preschool program for next year existed.

Based on this information, a solely part-day preschool program at Lower Sackville Nursery School would not have been sustainable or possible in September. All indications at the time were that the program that had been offered to the community for some 50 years would no longer be possible.

The LSNS Director, who had been hired in the fall of 2020, proposed an expansion of the program to include a full-day, full time program and presented a proposal to the Knox Finance Committee. This proposal suggested the program could be financially beneficial to Knox while providing a much needed service to the community and employment for several early learning educators. Based on the numbers provided by the Director, this proposal was vetted by the Finance Committee and presented to Council for approval. Council approved the expansion, again based on the numbers presented by the Director to the Finance Committee liaison.

Work began on the expansion with the school rooms being freshened up and new equipment required by the new format was purchased. Most of this work was completed by the Director and teachers under the provincial Covid-19 wage subsidy program. A play area was also built on the Knox property to accommodate some 36 children, again at the direction of the School Director who was following requirement laid out by the province. This project was researched and managed by the LSNS liaison.

Close to **\$15,000.00** was spent out of the existing School budget to complete these requirements for the School (Day Care now) to be licensed.

The expansion proposal indicated that monthly revenue of some \$28,000.00 could be realized if all spots were filled as follows: (these fees were based on the provincial average for the Central Zone which was released in March 2021.) These fees were revised for the fall 2021 fiscal year.

Toddler Full Day – 18 spots at \$800/month - \$14,400 (12 months/year)
Pre-School Full Day - 14 spots at \$800/month - \$11,200 (12 months/year)
Pre-School Part Day - 10 spots at \$243/month - \$ 2,430 (10 months/year)

**LOWER SACKVILLE NURSERY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)**

Staffing for this program was estimated as follows, again based on the provincial requirement for student-teacher ratios:

1 Director, 3 Toddler educators, 2 Preschool educators each fulltime;
1 Pre-school educator part-time and
1 float/chef part-time.

The estimate monthly cost of these staff members was approximately \$16,000/month

The proposal indicated that a budget of \$2000 would be sufficient for food based on the Canada's Food Guide and provincial health and licensing regulations.

Addition expenses were to include approximately \$400/month for classroom materials, \$2000 rent to Knox and \$1700-\$2000 to CRA for CCP, EI and federal and provincial taxes.

Total expenses were therefore estimated to be \$24,400.

Revenue to be \$28,000 from tuition, \$1700 from grants to supplement staff wages and \$900/month in child subsidies, equalling a total of approximately \$30,600.

Therefore total monthly revenue was estimated to be: $\$30,600 - \$24,400 = \$6,200$ /month plus the \$2000 rent paid to Knox. (Based on only 10 months, this would net Knox in excess of \$80 K/year)

Unfortunately these numbers were based on the best case scenario where all spots would be filled on a full-day basis and the number of educators and the Director would be sufficient to run and maintain a quality program. It became apparent at the end of the September 2021 that attendance in the various programs and hence the tuition levels, were less than expected. Also, during the summer it came to light that the teachers had not been given the two increases in the minimum wage that had been approved by the provincial government on January 1st, 2021 and April 1st 2021. This resulted in one-time top-up payments to the teachers of approximately **\$2400.00** and revised hourly wages going forward.

In summary, an additional **\$17,400** came out of the LSNS budget prior to the Day Care operation beginning in September of 2021 to cover the above noted expenses.

As noted above, it became obvious that revenue was less and costs higher than originally estimated and the Day Care has been running a deficit of approximately \$3,000-5,000 in September, October and November. This concern was made known to several senior persons in the Knox organization.

After several inquiries regarding the ongoing deficit, it became apparent that the part-day program was having an impact on the bottom line. At the same time the Director had indicated that the workload was too much for one person and an assistant to the Director was required in order that the Director could concentrate on administrative duties and not be required to be in the classroom. This position was approved and an existing educator moved into this position. An additional teacher was required in order to stay in ratio (number of teachers relative to number of students). This resulted in an increase in wages not previously identified.

LOWER SACKVILLE NURSERY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

The Director who began in September of 2020 tendered her resignation effective November 10th, moving on to the Halifax Regional School Board, and a new Director was hired effective November 15th, 2021.

During this time of transition, a request for an Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the province was received. This EOI outlined a federal-provincial funding program whereby not-for-profit organizations could submit a proposal to fund expansions in order to create additional day care spaces. The former Director and the LSNS liaison prepared and submitted an EOI for expansion of the LSNS (Daycare) to create an additional 24 spaces for toddlers and pre-school students. This proposal included expansion and renovations to the upstairs in the Cann Hall area.

On December 3, 2021, the EOI was approved by the province. A detailed proposal is required by January 24, 2022. Given the short timeline, a detailed proposal with estimates for renovations will be prepared by the new Director and the liaison. Approval for the expansion must be sought from both the Finance Committee and the Knox Council. Approval by Council and by the province does not commit and funds being spent. The intent is that no expansion would take place before September of 2022 however the expansion must take place by December 31, 2022.

A meeting was convened in early December 2021 that included the Chair of Council, the Treasurer of the Finance Committee, the liaison for the Daycare and a member at large of the Finance Committee. The intent of this meeting was to conduct a thorough financial review of the daycare operation and to develop a plan for moving forward and also, to provide input to the 2022 and 2023 Knox budgets. Many thanks to Kevin Webb for his review, experience and recommendations during this trying time.

During this review it was confirmed that not only was the revenue from tuition substantially less than proposed originally, wages were also higher. It was also determined that the employer portion of the CPP and Employment Insurance had not been submitted for 2021. This issue will be rectified as soon as possible (end of 2021).

Upon further investigation and review of the daycare financials, it was determined that the wage subsidy the daycare received for the 4th quarter (Jan-Mar) was substantially less that it should have been due to an error in reporting the number of full-day students. This problem was corrected and addition funds were received by the end of 2021. A wage subsidy review has been requested for the 3rd quarter of the 2021-22 provincial fiscal year. Any proposed expansion must indicate the number of full day students that can be reasonably be expected before proceeding – further discussions with the new Director and the Finance Committee will continue.

At the end of 2021 number of questions remain outstanding in regards to current financial viability of the Daycare, current registration with respect to full-time vs. part-time enrollment and how the new federal provincial daycare program may impact the ongoing operation of the Lower Sackville Nursery School/Daycare.

Respectively submitted;
Janet Hadley and D.R. Duggan,
Knox Finance Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Another year has come and gone. This is my fifth annual report as Chair of the Finance team and I sit here thinking about the past successes and the successes yet to come. This year, Henry Ellsworth stepped down after of years of financial advice and action with our United Church community. We lost Rick Nursey who was constant in the counting and control side of the givings. Blanche Hoddinot continues to be a dedicated member with the counting of our weekly givings. David Moore has been a guiding light with knowledge of times and talent, financial tracking and is a figure who provides a steady hand. Mary-Beth Fancy is learning the ropes from David. David Duggan, with Janet Hadley, represent the finance team in the coordination of the Nursery School which is undergoing a transition to a full time day care. Vanessa joined the Finance team last year, and with her intention to Chair Council in the future, this will give her an opportunity to see how the finance side of the Church operates. Last, but not least, Kevin Webb, is in his 22 year as treasurer and runs this business with integrity and commitment to ensure every nickel is accounted for, (what is a nickel anyway)?!

Success is built in the commitment of the Members of the congregation. Success in our Outreach Programs has put Knox on the map. Thinking outside of the box allows Knox to be successful and we must continue to do so. We must look at every business opportunity for us to continue on our mission.

Enclosed in this annual report are the financial statements and budgets. Budgets for this coming year, 2022, with a deficit approaching \$90,000. However, with a cash projection for 2023 and a minor deficit of \$30,000, 2023 is showing growth and a glimmer of hope as we move forward. For us to continue to be successful, we must put our head to the grindstone. Working together as a team, the congregation will lift us to our successful ways. We receive over 50% of our income from rentals. The need to continue to implement fundraising projects is paramount. Some fundraising ideas for the upcoming year are a lobster supper, yard sale, turkey supper, and bake sales. Outside events are being considered as well. As I write this, I am planning on contacting the Men of the Deeps for the fall. Folks, when asked to help, please step up as much as possible. Baking, promoting and purchasing tickets to events, painting, yard maintenance, and garden beautification, just to name a few, are all ways in which we can contribute to our church. In the past two years, Covid has had a huge impact on us all.

PAR is an important tool for consistent budgeting and I encourage all to please consider this giving option. It provides our Church with a consistent income even during the summer season when many are away at the cottage or travelling. If it is possible for you to increase your giving by 10% please do so.

Here is a suggestion to begin fundraising now, it's Toonie Tuesday! Use an empty jar and every Tuesday of the year put a toonie in it, do this for the year. This is March so you will already have a jar with 9 toonies in it. It was that easy! By doing this, at the end of the year you will have added \$114 dollars to your givings. Multiply that by 100 families and that adds up to \$11,400 against the deficit and our continued success!

During 2021, the construction of the Freedom Kitchen building occurred. The parking lot was paved, kitchen equipment was purchased, and all as a result of grants and community donations. Not one cent of Knox monies were used for these updates. All of these assets are to be used by the Knox Community. As the Freedom Kitchen building was used once a week, an Ice Cream stand was established to further generate revenue. Equipment was purchased, students hired and even some ice cream was sold!

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

Our ice cream stand will return again this year with a more successful outcome as a result of lessons learned. There will be signage, lighting and picnic tables that will add to the excitement of Hearts and Hands Ice Cream stand. Please support this endeavour with family and friends.

If you have suggestions, come see us. We may even have some seniors volunteer to serve ice cream!

Included is a proposal of the income generated from a full time Day Care. After fifty years of operating as a Nursery School, it became apparent that this alone would not generate sufficient revenue to cover its own cost, let alone providing the Church with much needed income. The introduction of the NS Government Pre-Primary Program had an impact on us. The change to a full-time Day Care showed potential income levels required. This transition has not been without its challenges. Please see the report on the Nursery School provided by Dave Duggan and Janet Hadley. This expansion will require expanding into some of the upstairs rooms where the Sunday School was once located. Sharing of this space has become a reality.

The Futures "Green Field" option is still being considered. This process looks at generating revenue from an offsite property for Seniors housing and housing security. Please see the included report from Don Farmer.

Finance is part of the business of our Church. It is sometimes a hard reality and one that cannot be ignored. When the congregation as a whole, works together as a team, we can ensure success! Your support is need now more than ever to ensure that this will happen!

*Respectfully submitted,
Fred Gallop, Chair*

TRUSTEES REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Trustee activities during 2021 included:

- * Continued input on budgets
- * Renegotiation of insurance, including the addition of solar panels and elevator to our policy. The insurance regarding the nursery school was also redefined. The next renewal of insurance is June 2022. We have participated as part of a group of United Churches who are insured together.
- * Due to COVID, meeting was held virtually.
- * Leases of spaces on the lower level changed in 2022. Motion Dance Centre has continued while Eldon's Soup and Sandwiches has discontinued its lease.

Submitted by trustees:

Sinclair Bannerman, Al Matheson, Ron MacIntosh and Shari Landry

KNOX FUTURES - PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The National Trust for Canada - Canada's national charitable not-for-profit organization that leads and inspires action for places that matter, estimates that 9,000 "religious spaces" in Canada will be closed in the next decade. Knox, like other Churches, has an aging population, and a forecast of declining revenue with a growing dependence on projects (which are dependant on aging volunteers for success, many of which were not feasible in Covid days), for financial viability. Unlike many Churches, Knox has a current Cash surplus giving Knox the luxury of having a short-term window to develop, and implement, a strategy for long term financial viability.

Based on financial projections, and a Nov 2017 related roundtable "living-within-our means" discussion of many active and past Knox volunteers, Knox Congregation at the March 2018 Knox AGM, established "a committee to seek out a developer to explore redevelopment of the church property". A report prepared for the Team by Canmac Economics Ltd in 2021 indicates that Knox can anticipate an operating deficit of about \$124,500 by 2030 (without allowance for a long- term negative impact of Covid 19 on attendance and support) if we continue without corrective action. The Knox Budget for 2022 projects an operating deficit of over \$80 K.

An Oct 2018 Viability Report (prepared by Knox working with the UCC EDGE Group) and the Feb 2019 Congregational Workshop confirmed the Congregations wish to pursue Knox's Mission by having Strong Community Outreach, by having strong Pastoral Care, and by maximizing the value of property assets for financial viability. Knox's very successful Freedom Kitchen and Closet, and ongoing very effective Pastoral Care thrusts, are the manifestations of this Congregational will. This Team is addressing the Property Redevelopment opportunities.

The Goal of The Property Redevelopment Team is for Knox to "Survive and Thrive" by having a well-developed Property Redevelopment Proposal, for Congregational consideration, when required to ensure the continued financial viability of Knox. Objectives of The Property Redevelopment Team: 1 Provide Facilities for Church programming, 2 Provide income to the Church to supplement declining income, 3 Provide a needed service or facility to the Community; and 4 Enter into a mutually beneficial business partnership.

The Property Redevelopment Team has explored many options to ensure the long-term financial viability of Knox by leveraging the value embedded in the Knox property. Fundamental options considered include sale and rebuild smaller, enter a business partnership with a Developer or Seniors housing Operator; share space with another Religious Organization; Buy "Green Field" land in Sackville and enter into a "Green Field" Affordable Housing development opportunity with a third-party Developer; and maximize rental opportunities of current floorspace. The Senior Planning class of Dalhousie prepared a land-use and redevelopment concept for the Team which may be the base for a future, more detailed, development proposal to the Congregation.

The Team has met with HRM and Provincial Government representatives re obtaining land for the "green field" option and has been promised a meeting soon with Federal representatives.

A 26 Sept 2021 Congregational meeting approved the Teams 30 June 2021 Interim Report and bottom-line recommendation to the Congregation - "A Implement the Day Care and "other Rentals" proposal, over 2021 and 2022, and B, To take advantage of Knox's Social Capital, begin preliminary investigation of the option of a "green-field" affordable housing facility in Sackville, for consideration by the Congregation after Knox's Post-Covid Strengths and Weaknesses are known." A is being pursued by Knox Council and the Finance Committee. B is being pursued by the Futures Property Redevelopment Team.

KNOX FUTURES - PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 (CONTINUED)

The Property Redevelopment Team has a two-point plan for 2022:

- 1 Refine Basic long-term options to identify more opportunities, as well as re-examine previously considered options, and
- 2 Get a full and detailed understanding of support available to Knox from the UPRC (UCC EDGE group – The United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) is a new corporation created by The United Church of Canada to bring professional real estate expertise to communities of faith to provide them with all of the information needed to make faithful decisions about their real estate).

Respectfully submitted

Don Farmer – Chair, Property Redevelopment Team

2021 Financial Highlights

The actual account balances are reflected later in the report.

KNOX DONATION STATISTICS – REGULAR GIVERS

Annual Donations	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	Number	Number	Number	\$	\$	\$
\$0-\$100	29	49	80	1,312	2,798	3,431
\$101-\$200	14	23	12	2,220	3,506	1,805
\$201-\$300	24	22	23	6,306	5,714	6,045
\$301-\$400	8	13	17	2,845	4,662	6,132
\$401-\$600	36	40	38	18,273	20,703	19,580
\$601-\$1,000	24	25	33	19,553	20,433	27,002
\$1,001-\$2,000	44	50	58	60,442	71,478	80,125
\$2,001-\$10,000	20	27	21	76,085	104,089	72,288
Over \$10,001	0	1	0	0	10,420	0
Total	199	250	282	187,038	243,804	216,409
Average Donation per Giver				\$940	\$975	\$767

STATISTICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Number of Households	388
Numbers of Baptisms	2
Number of Confirmations	3
Numbers of Marriages	1
Number of Funerals & Memorial Services	17
Number of Identifiable Givers	199
Local	199
Mission	77
Church School Enrollment	7
United Church Women	12

CHURCH RECORDS
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

IN MEMORIAM - *We remember with gratitude and thanksgiving the lives of the following:*

- Joyce Rosalie Lilly January 8, 2021
- Lloyd Ronald Burns February 28, 2021
- Kenneth Hibbert Webb March 17, 2021
- James Young March 2021
- Richard Osborne Nursey April 13, 2021
- Lillian Elizabeth Wiley May 8, 2021
- Jane Ardelle Reimer June 23, 2021
- Phillip Bernard Dalrymple July 22, 2021
- Catherine Ann Fish August 5, 2021
- Edith Carol Ann White September 26, 2021
- John Harold Markette October 9, 2021
- Stephen Michael Shea October 12, 2021
- Shirley Mae Singer October 24, 2021
- Dorthea Elizabeth McLaughlin November 26, 2021
- Keith Humby December 4, 2021
- David Young December 18, 2021
- Sharon Lee Cox December 28, 2021

CONFIRMATION –

- Holly Murphy April 4, 2021
- Rainie Murphy April 4, 2021
- Tara Forhan October 10, 2021

BAPTISMS – March 28, 2021

- Reign James Fifield, son of Hayley Carr and Joey Fifield
- Everlee Charlotte Christine MacFarlane, daughter of Christopher and Jasmine MacFarlane

MARRIAGES –

- Rachel Martin and Drew Alexander, June 12, 2021

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP –

- Joan Lively April 4, 2021
- Peter McQueen April 4, 2021
- James O'Connell April 4, 2021