

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

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ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2023



**FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

**Annual General Meeting
St Andrew's River Heights United Church
Sunday, February 25, 2024, 11:30 a.m.**

Agenda

1. Call to order and declaration of quorum
2. Opening prayer and time of remembrance
3. Motion allowing adherents to vote
4. Election of meeting secretary
5. Acceptance of February 26, 2023, Annual General Meeting minutes
6. Tabling of Group Reports
7. Council Report
8. Foundation report
9. Finance report
 - a) Tabling of independently reviewed 2023 financial statements
 - b) Approval of 2024 budget
10. Nominations and elections for (a) Church Council, (b) Regional Council Representative(s), and (c) Foundation Board
11. Other business
12. Expressions of appreciation
13. Closing prayer
14. Adjournment

Our Vision Statement

*To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion
and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture,
growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.*

Table of Contents

A message from Rev. Karen Lumley	4
St. Andrew’s River Heights United Church personnel.....	6
Statistical information.....	7
Baptisms/Confirmations	7
Marriages.....	7
Deaths, funerals, memorial services	7
From the Church Council chair.....	8
 <u>Finance Reports:</u>	
Treasurer’s report.....	10
Financial reports: Table 1 – Profit & Loss	12
Table 2 – Balance Sheet	13
 <u>Church Group Reports:</u>	
Affirming report.....	16
Christian Education report.....	17
Fellowship and Pastoral Care report	19
Caring Community & Prayer Shawls	21
St. Andrew’s Foundation report.....	22
Ministry and Personnel report	25
Outreach report.....	28
Meals on Wheels	29
Property and Administration report.....	30
Stewardship report	32
Worship report	32
 <u>Other Reports:</u>	
Anna Blair Circle update.....	34
Senior Choir report	34
Appendix A – Minutes of the annual general meeting – February 26, 2023	36

A Message from Rev. Karen Lumley

Gratitude, according to Google says it is *“a strong feeling of appreciation to someone or something for what the person has done to help you. Gratitude is feeling thankful for the good things in your life. It can even be things that people take for granted.”* Gratitude is being grateful and thankful.

That has been my mantra this year as we reflected on Gratitude for five Sundays in the fall. Gratitude for Creation, Food, Silence, and Music ending with gratitude and thankfulness on Thanksgiving Sunday. Truly, we have so much to be grateful for, our homes, our families, our faith community, our church, and our friends. The list would be endless if we listed everything.

I have been grateful for the opportunity to be creative in worship, in liturgy and in the sermons. The service for The Song of Faith, one of our United Church Creeds, was an opportunity to worship through song and be thankful for the creed that expresses our faith and beliefs. I have been grateful for opportunities to be Advent guests (Anna-the mother of Mary, the Innkeeper, Angel Gabriel, Joseph and the Wise Ones). It was an opportunity to make the scriptures come alive and offer a message in a different light.

I was grateful for our expressions of gratitude to remember our Affirming Ministry and calling. We all appreciated and enjoyed PIE Day (Public/Intentional/Explicit) and ate pieces of pie baked by members of our faith community.

I have been grateful for opportunities to be creative with the children through the Advent Rock wreath they created and the Lenten tree that they made symbols for.

I have been grateful for families attending church, for those who have returned to worship on Sunday mornings and I am grateful for those who are connected with us even if they do not attend on Sundays. We miss their presence and it is our loss when those who used to attend no longer attend.

I am grateful for the learnings from Prairie Spirit United Church, as I am their pastoral supervisor while they are without a minister. It has been an opportunity to see things differently and journey with them in ensuring they are able to and ready to call a minister soon. As a United Church Minister we are all called upon to do work with the wider church, it is an expectation from Prairie to Pine and a responsibility of the church to support ministers in these tasks.

I am so grateful for the time I have been able to visit with members of our faith community, especially those in care homes, institutions, or shut-ins at home. Each time I visit, Christmas, Easter, Summer and Fall, I am blessed by my visits and their kind words of support of the work we do at St. Andrew's. I am grateful for the Fellowship Group who make up cookie packages at Christmas and Easter for them all.

I am grateful for the long-standing partnership with Westworth United Church. That relationship continues with sharing Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and summer services with them. It has been wonderful getting to know their new minister Rev. Tricia Gerhard.

I am so grateful for the Adult Confirmation class that encouraged me to create a class for them and the three adults who were confirmed. I am so grateful for their input, discussions, and thought-provoking questions at each of our times together.

I am grateful for the unbelievable staff I work with, the volunteers, the committees and all of you sitting in the pews Sunday after Sunday and those who are unable to come, those who hear us online and those who are shut-ins or simply have chosen not to attend. I am grateful for all of you and your support and encouragement not just for this year but over the years.

This year, 2024, show your gratitude and thank those who do so much around St. Andrew's. Offer words of encouragement and support, criticize little and praise much as we work together to build this faith community to be all God has called it to be and for us to be all God has called us to be.

In Ministry Together,

Rev. Karen Lumley

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

Church staff (as of December 31, 2023)

Ministers	All the people of the congregation
Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley
Ministry of Music	Katy Harmer, Wes Elias
Office Manager	Charlotte Lindsay
Treasurer	Bill Craddock
Church Caretaker	Cecilia Salcedo
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk

The Church Council (as of December 31, 2023)

Chair	Rob Siddall
Minister	Rev. Karen Lumley
Secretary	Lisa Richards
Treasurer	Bill Craddock
Ministry & Personnel Chair	Michael Duncan

Members at Large

Iris McKay	Kathy Knowles
Glenn Neufeld	Leigh Carlson

Group Chairs

Christian Education	Vacant
Fellowship & Pastoral Care	Betty Jubinville
Finance	Paul Webster
Ministry and Personnel	Michael Duncan
Nominating	Glenn Neufeld
Outreach	Anne Grewar
Property and Administration	Gord Shawcross/John Swan
Stewardship	Greg Fearn
Worship	Ruth McKenzie
Church Trustees	John Barber, Bernard Boland, Ellen Bruneau, Gord Shawcross,
Prairie2Pine Representative	Rita Swan

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church Foundation

Chair Paul Webster
Secretary/Treasurer David Wreford

Anna Blair Circle

Kay Shawcross

Statistical Information

Number of baptisms	1
Number of confirmations/reaffirmations.....	3
Number of marriages.....	0
Number of deaths, funerals, memorial services.....	9
Number of supporting households as of December 31, 2023	134

Baptisms:

William Jeffrey Donaldson July 30, 2023

Confirmations:

Robbie Belton December 17, 2023

Rhonda Kennedy-Rodgers December 17, 2023

Cynthia Worsley December 17, 2023

Deaths, Funerals, Memorial Services:

Sharon Smith January, 26, 2023

Kit Jarvis February 5, 2023

Cheryl Duffy May 24, 2023

Charles Andison May 24, 2023

Jack Palmer June 1, 2023

Jean Lynas August 13, 2023

Leonard Careless October 27, 2023

Rosemary Carson (Jardine)

November 2, 2023

James Wiebe

November 9, 2023

From the Church Council Chair

As the second year of my term as Chair of the St. Andrew's Council draws to a close, I would like to reflect back on the last couple of years. Although at the beginning of my term, we were meeting online as a result of COVID lockdowns and then subsequently in-person but subject to somewhat cumbersome, but necessary, COVID protocols, life at St. Andrew's has since returned to a much more normal state. While things were certainly difficult during the COVID period, that has perhaps helped us to appreciate even more what we once might have taken for granted – being able to gather in-person for worship on Sunday mornings, being able to enjoy our wonderful choir and music programs and coffee, tea and dainties following Worship, and experiencing again the sense of community and belonging that those activities bring.

Towards the end of 2023, Council started to consider our strategic priorities for the next 3 to 5 years and I expect that this will continue into 2024. This involves in part a consideration of what we want St. Andrew's to be, and discerning our purpose and place in the community. Some of the themes that have emerged are that St. Andrew's should first and foremost be a place of spiritual growth and development that promotes a deepening of our faith, but that we should also be an open and welcoming Church that provides a sense of community both to members of the Congregation and to visitors. We want to become a Church that can attract and retain youth and young families who will become the future of St. Andrew's, as well as being a Church that can contribute to the broader community. We will likely continue to assess our strategic priorities and try to determine how best to achieve those goals. However, this initiative, and the implementation of our strategic priorities, is something that should involve the entire Congregation. If anyone has any thoughts, ideas or suggestions please reach out to me or to any other member of Council because your input would be greatly appreciated.

While we, like many other churches, continue to face our challenges, 2023 was a reasonably good year for us. Although our finances and the state of our building continue to present some challenges, they held up reasonably well over the last year. In addition to having returned to normal worship activities including Sunday School and confirmation classes, we provide a service to the community through our rental of space to the

daycare and nursery and through our music rental program. We continue to support Oak Table/1JustCity, we contributed to a Ukrainian relief fund, and we continue to support Jocelyn House (Memory Tree) and Meals on Wheels. Through the Outreach Group, we brought in a series of speakers to inform us more on some of the social issues facing our fellow citizens. These are all very worthy/important activities and, as a Congregation, we should feel very good about that.

It of course takes a lot of time and effort from very many people to enable us to successfully carry on the life and work of St. Andrew's, and we all have a part to play in that. Many volunteers work very hard to support our day-to-day activities and operations, but our volunteer base is shrinking and we are always looking for more help. If you have the time and inclination to become involved with Council with any of the many Church Groups that do such important work, or in any other way, I would strongly encourage you to do so. You may well find that by getting involved, you will feel even more a part of the St. Andrew's community and you will hopefully find the experience to be a very rewarding one.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of Council, the members of the various Church Groups, all who contribute to our wonderful worship and music programs and everyone else who contributes to the life and work of St. Andrew's. It is only through our collective efforts that we will be able to continue to meet the challenges that we face.

May God continue to bless us all at St. Andrew's.

Rob Siddall
Council Chair

Finance Reports

Treasurer's Report

In 2023 we received enough revenue compared to expenses to have a surplus of \$1,666. We did this using only the revenue which came from donations and activities in that year. We did not use the \$23,500 of leftover monies received from the federal government in 2020, We had projected that it would be required to achieve a balance financial situation.

A major contributor to our revenue was some member's donations which were more than had been pledged, some considerably more. Member givings were \$221,082 or \$13,822 more than expected.

Rental income at \$83,502 was down slightly from 2022. In 2023, we earned \$24,392 of dividend and interest from our church investments. We also received \$34,500 from our Foundation. Miscellaneous income was \$13,570 more than we expected. The U.S. movie, which used a small part of our choir's singing, contributed \$3,308 to this category.

Total expenditures were \$8,193 more than projected. Part of this was our ministerial salary which was \$3,570 more than we had expected. The Toronto oversight body of the United Church mandated a structural salary change for all Winnipeg United Churches.

Operating expenses for the church building at \$110,800 were \$4,114 more than planned. A significant factor leading to this was three major breakdowns of the elevator. This led to a cost of \$10,856 compared to \$400 or so of annual inspection fees since installation.

For 2024, we are again budgeting for a financial breakeven year. However, this will require using \$30,500 of residual C.E.W.S. monies from 2020. Expenses for many of the items required by our church are increasing. Revenue sources are not rising as much and, in some cases, declining.

Table I is the consolidated income statement for 2022 and 2023 and the budget for 2024. Table 2 is the balance sheet for 2023 and 2024 for all assets and liabilities.

Howard Rempel has completed an Independent Review of all of our financial records and procedures. In his report to our church Council, he states: *"In my opinion, based on the information available to myself, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Church as at December 31, 2023."*

Thank you to the other members of the Finance Committee, Chair Paul Webster, Rob Siddall, Deborah Metcalfe, David Bergman, Diane Bowles and David Wreford.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to have served as your treasurer for another year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Craddock

Treasurer

Table 1

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH						
Consolidated Profit & Loss						
		Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget
		2023	2023	2023	2,022	2024
INCOME						
3100	OFFERINGS					
3101	REGULAR OFFERINGS	221,082	207,260	13,822	224,295	208,990
3103	OPEN COLLECTIONS	1,539	1,000	539	1,387	1,200
3105	SUNDAY SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0
3109	MISSION & SERVICE	1,300	1,800	-500	1,930	1,800
3113	Memorial Easter Flowers	1,355	1,000	355	1,105	1,200
3174	Fundraising	8,232	9,200	-968	3,082	16,200
	Other Income	18,370	4,800	13,570	9,250	7,200
3150	OPERATIONS INCOME	87,770	88,396	-626	91,805	87,600
3124	INVESTMENT INCOME	24,392	45,000	-20,608	20,918	52,500
3190	FOUNDATION GRANT	34,500	33,000	1,500	35,000	34,000
3160	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	1,051	350	701	394	550
TOTAL INCOME		399,591	391,806	7,785	389,166	411,240
EXPENSES						
30502	OTHER EXPENSES	1,648	0	1,648	0	1,730
4000	STAFFING					
4010	Ministerial	98,860	95,290	3,570	94,633	107,761
4030	Administration	48,531	48,400	131	46,810	49,502
4050	Caretaking	12,828	14,500	-1,672	11,979	13,700
4080	Pandemic Extra Staffing	1,950	2,200	-250	2,200	2,000
4090	Music	47,127	47,500	-373	44,794	48,200
40901	Youth	2,613	2,600	13	2,517	3,100
40902	ADP	365	360	5	369	360
	TOTAL 4000 STAFFING	212,274	210,850	1,424	203,302	224,623
6000	OPERATIONS					
6230	Equipment/Furniture	1,087	2,200	-1,113	2,813	2,200
6520	Maintenance & Repairs	55,918	48,520	7,398	48,248	51,860
6940	Utilities, Taxes, Insurance	53,795	55,966	-2,171	54,868	57,975
	TOTAL 6000 OPERATIONS	110,800	106,686	4,114	105,929	112,035
6100	ADMINISTRATION					
6540	Office Expenses	6,440	3,900	2,540	4,692	4,000
6630	Finance	4,945	3,825	1,120	7,235	3,663
66301	Minister's Local Travel	1,476	1,400	76	1,179	1,500
	TOTAL 6100 ADMINISTRATION	12,861	9,125	3,736	13,106	9,163
6601	COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
6610	Christian Education	4,832	3,450	1,382	3,666	4,350
6620	Fellowship	433	950	-517	426	750
6640	Ministry and Personnel	1,028	1,543	-515	1,506	1,640
6650	Outreach	1,397	2,000	-603	25	2,000
6670	Stewardship	217	400	-183	90	400
6680	Worship	3,714	3,830	-116	3,538	5,700
6700	Music	9,612	10,475	-863	9,282	10,480
	TOTAL 6601 COMMITTEES	21,233	22,648	-1,415	18,533	25,320
66932	Affirm Min. plus wreath purchase	1,918	200	1,718	1,726	190
6900	MISSION & SERVICE	12,354	12,163	191	13,152	12,250
6914	OUTREACH	10,053	8,800	1,253	12,164	8,800
6911	UCC ADMINISTRATION	12,316	18,960	-6,644	18,960	16,669
	TRANSFER TO ALLOCATED ACCOUNTS	2,262	0	2,262	0	0
6999	OTHER EXPENSES	206	300	-94	375	300
TOTAL EXPENSES		397,925	389,732	8,193	387,247	411,080
NET ORDINARY REVENUE		1,666	2,074	-408	1,919	161

Table 2

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of 31 December 2023

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Chequing/Savings			
1010 · PETTY CASH	42	50	-8
1011 · FLOAT	16	121	-105
1018 · BANK ACCOUNTS			
1041 · **** RBC TOTAL CHEQUING BALANCE	27,227	12,593	14,633
10411 · **** CIBC BANK ACCOUNT	211	186	26
10413 · **** STEINBACH CREDIT UNION	94,295	99,867	-5,572
Total 1018 · BANK ACCOUNTS	121,732	112,646	9,087
1019 · INVESTMENTS			
10600 · **** CIBC-WG CANADIAN FUNDS			
10601 · EQUITIES, CANDADIAN FUNDS	205,947	169,532	36,415
10610 · CASH CIBC-WG SEG. FNDS, MUTUAL	125	42,348	-42,223
Total 10600 · **** CIBC-WG CANADIAN FUNDS	206,072	211,880	-5,808
10603 · **** CIBC-WG U.S. \$ ACCTS.			
10605 · EQUITIES U.S. FUNDS	50,911	50,911	0
10606 · CASH CIBC-WG US \$	239	20,944	-20,704
106220 · Adj. US \$ to CDN \$	9,774	25,365	-15,591
Total 10603 · **** CIBC-WG U.S. \$ ACCTS.	60,924	97,219	-36,295
10607 · **** CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE			
106078 · CIBC IE - CDN EQUITIES	187,750	201,598	-13,848
10999 · Cash - CDN	85,119	41,377	43,742
Total 10607 · **** CIBC INVESTOR'S EDGE	272,869	242,975	29,894
10608 · **** CIBC INVEST. EDGE US\$ ACCT			
106020 · CIBC-IE US Equities	18,811	18,811	0
106021 · Cash U.S.	42,573	43,006	-433
106035 · CDN adj.	22,822	22,822	0
Total 10608 · **** CIBC INVEST. EDGE US\$ ACCT	84,206	84,639	-433
Total 1019 · INVESTMENTS	624,071	636,714	-12,642
9000 · INVESTMENT ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT			
90021 · Equities CDN Accts.	-87,746	-83,210	-4,536
90022 · Equities US Accts.	-19,736	-23,157	3,421
9005 · Gain/Loss on Currency	5,238	3,385	1,853
Total 9000 · INVESTMENT ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT	-102,244	-102,982	738
Total Chequing/Savings	643,618	646,548	-2,931
Accounts Receivable			
10701 · G.S.T. (Regular Fund Asset)	2,425	3,508	-1,083
1071 · Accounts Receivable (Other)	588	1,444	-856
10741 · Steinbach Credit Union	2,654	1,061	1,593
Total Accounts Receivable	5,667	6,013	-346
Total Current Assets	649,285	652,562	-3,277
TOTAL ASSETS	649,285	652,562	-3,277

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of 31 December 2023

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22	\$ Change
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
2100 · Accounts Payable..	0	20,334	-20,334
2245 · Accts. Payable, Other	0	20,334	-20,334
Total 2100 · Accounts Payable..	0	20,334	-20,334
2710 · EQUITY - ALLOCATED FUNDS			
27111 · Deferred Regular Givings	9,615	10,152	-538
27421 · BEQUESTS & OTHER GIFTS			
2737 · Margaret Tyler Fund - Bequest	357,572	357,572	0
27423 · Betty Barkwell Bequest	2,000	2,000	0
27424 · Dorothy Rogerson Bequest	500	500	0
27425 · Katherine Riehl Bequest	1,000	1,000	0
27426 · Donald Brooking Bequest	54,579	54,579	0
27427 · Joan McMorris Bequest	5,000	5,000	0
274271 · Dr. Jean McFarlane Bequest	10,000	10,000	0
274272 · Bruce MacMillan Memorial Fund	1,653	1,653	0
274273 · Margaret Gourley Bequest	5,000	5,000	0
274274 · Pearl & Don Leslie Mem. Fund	12,694	12,694	0
274275 · Catherine Anderson Bequest	5,000	5,000	0
274276 · Ruby & James Ashdown Mem. Fund	3,920	3,920	0
274277 · John Hunter Cordner Memorial	540	540	0
274278 · Audrey Arnett Bequest	1,000	1,000	0
274279 · Jan Mildren Memorial Fund	4,068	4,068	0
27428 · Reesor & Norma Bingeman Mem. Fd	7,030	7,030	0
274280 · Jean MacDonald Memorial Fund	1,000	1,000	0
274281 · Dorothy Gage Memorial Fund	1,025	1,025	0
274282 · Jean Potter Memorial Fund	350	350	0
274283 · Lorna O'Brien Memorial Fund	4,000	4,000	0
274284 · Rob't Parrish Spear Mem. Fund	10,000	10,000	0
274285 · Josephine Brown Gift	12,600	12,600	0
274286 · Other Memorial Gifts	6,528	6,508	20
274287 · Fred Code Memorial Fund	500	500	0
274288 · Marlene Websdale Bequest	1,500	1,500	0
274290 · Sally Dowler Memorial	1,690	1,690	0
274291 · Eleanor Gibson Bequest	3,000	3,000	0
274292 · Ina Frances Bowles Bequest	3,000	3,000	0
274293 · Phillip Ashdown	10,100	10,100	0
274300 · Anonymous	2,500	2,500	0
Total 27421 · BEQUESTS & OTHER GIFTS	529,350	529,330	20
27430 · Accumulated Int. & Div. CDN \$	63,148	63,148	0
2743001 · Accumulated Int. & Div. US \$	9,723	8,402	1,321
274303 · Realized Capital Gains CDN \$	-47,503	-58,511	11,007
2743031 · Realized Capital Gains US \$	4,040	5,210	-1,170
274305 · MUSIC ENDOWMENT	13,339	13,089	250
274306 · Shelter (roof)	250	250	0
274310 · Gain/Loss US Currency in CDNS\$	4,544	4,544	0
2744 · ANNA BLAIR CIRCLE	648	1,735	-1,087
27446 · SPIRIT PATH	9,423	10,024	-601

ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of 31 December 2023

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22	\$ Change
2748 · OTHER ALLOCATED FUNDS			
27110 · Gov't Support Funds C.E.W.S.	57,803	57,803	0
2712 · Sundry Alloc. Funds	6,721	7,049	-328
2713 · Public Address System	932	932	0
2722 · Working Capital	3,687	3,687	0
27234 · Basement Bookstore	2,480	2,480	0
27236 · Fridge Fund	1,157	1,157	0
2723601 · Electrical Fund	350	350	0
2723602 · Heating Reserve Fund	25,125	20,125	5,000
2723603 · Organ Maintenance Fund	2,000	0	2,000
272362 · Special Projects Fund	7,141	7,141	0
272363 · Centennial	925	925	0
272364 · Special Outreach	207	0	207
27271 · Memory Tree	311	248	62
2731 · Handbells	425	425	0
2735 · Choir	4,192	4,192	0
27351 · Choir Bursary	7,139	7,139	0
27481 · Right to Housing Coalition	2,425	2,435	-10
Total 2748 · OTHER ALLOCATED FUNDS	123,019	116,089	6,930
2760 · YOUTH FUNDRAISING	28,885	28,885	0
Total 2710 · EQUITY - ALLOCATED FUNDS	748,481	732,348	16,133
Total Other Current Liabilities	748,481	752,682	-4,201
Total Current Liabilities	748,481	752,682	-4,201
Total Liabilities	748,481	752,682	-4,201
Equity			
3000 · OPENING BAL EQUITY	-20,501	-20,501	0
3050 · INVESTMENT ADJUSTMENTS	-104,097	-102,982	-1,115
3900 · RETAINED EARNINGS - PRIOR YEAR	13,021	11,101	1,920
900001 · Balance Sheet Adjustments	10,717	10,342	375
Net Income	1,665	1,920	-256
Total Equity	-99,196	-100,120	924
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	649,285	652,562	-3,277

Church Group Reports



Affirming Report

As an Affirming Church we can publicly declare our commitment to the inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. However, being an Affirming Church also means supporting a variety of justice and inclusion issues that are not LGBTQ2-related. Some of these issues can be related to homelessness, health issues, crime, racism, antisemitism, economic inequality, political extremism, drug abuse, climate change, Indigenous issues, cultural imperialism, etc.

The Affirming Group would like to thank the Outreach Group for their four Speaker's Series on homelessness, mental health and addiction (Sunday, February 19)— transgender issues (Sunday, March 19)—Reconciliation & Employment (Sunday, April 30)— the 7 Indigenous Teachings & 1JUST CITY (Sunday, September 24).

On Sunday, February 19, St. Andrew's celebrated Black History Month. The choir sang a special traditional Spiritual, "Let De Heaven Light Shine On Me."

Sunday, March 4 was St. Andrew's 8th Affirming Celebration Sunday since becoming an Affirming Church. It was also PIE Day. On PIE DAY, Affirming Churches across Canada serve & eat pie to celebrate the full inclusion of LGBTQ and Two-Spirited People in faith communities. Hymns and anthems reflected the spirit of the occasion.

Sunday, June 4th was the annual Pride Day Parade. The Pride Day Parade ends a week's activities of LGBTQ2 events. Approximately six people from St. Andrew's took part in the parade which started at the Legislative grounds and ended at the Forks.

During the summer a newly designed Affirming Pride Flag was installed just outside the Christian Education Building. In 2021 Intersex columnist and media personality, Valentino Vecchiotti, designed an intersex-inclusive Pride flag which includes a purple circle over a yellow triangle. Intersex is a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the category of male or female. Intersex people have been under-represented in LGBTQ2 flags.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Affirming Group,

Peter Brehaut

Christian Education Report

The beginning of 2023 started out like usual: the numbers of students were quite low. Evan Demeduk worked in the nursery and I in Sunday school. Evan continued to help me with the Sunday school when there were no children in the nursery. The numbers began to pick up by February. February 10th brought us our successful Valentine's party with 10 children attending, Beautiful crafts were created and plenty of goodies were consumed.

Lent began Sunday, March 5 and we decided to create a Lenten tree during the season. Every week the children created a symbol starting a week before to be hung on a tree. The symbols were as follows:

Week 1-Stoles

Week 2-Eggs

Week 3-Pretzels

Week 4-Lillies

Week 5-Sheep

Week 6-Butterflies

Sunday, April 9th Easter Sunday, the children performed a colourful Easter play during service. Attendance continued to be constant with approximately 10 to 12 children each week. May brought us the church picnic where the children enjoyed games, relays and races, which were held in the auditorium. Pentecost was another "birthday" party in which Karen was able to join us.

After the summer, we reconvened in September during celebration Sunday. We saw some familiar faces, but very few registered for Sunday school at that time. This was probably due to the fantastic weather we had in September. The usual families did return and have been coming to church regularly.

We had a new addition to the Sunday school teaching staff. Jocelyn Carlson joined Evan in the nursery splitting the time with him and allowing Evan to join the church choir. Jennifer Parks joined us to teach the youth group. For the first few months she did an amazing job, but, because of unforeseen circumstances and moving across the city to Transcona, Jennifer regretfully informed us that she was no longer able to continue. Once

again, we are only able to have one large class which, due to the wide range of age, is somewhat challenging, but I continue trying to make it work.

On October 15 Karen again was able to come and join us in Sunday school. The children enjoy her being there. We had fun making galaxy “heaven” jars. Everyone is Invited
Matthew 22:1-14

November was busy with Advent, continuing with 10 to 12 children each week. At this time, the children painted advent rocks with symbols of what they felt were represented by each week in Advent. During service the following week, the children would place their rocks around the candles to create a wreath.

For the past few years we did a pre-recorded Christmas Eve play and the children did a wonderful job. They quite like doing a pre-recorded play as it is less stressful and more enjoyable for them.

Evan and Jocelyn continue to share duties and are available for nursery care. As of yet, we still haven't had anyone attending, but they both actively help me out with Sunday school, but they are there every week should there happen to be a need for the nursery.

Going forward, we are looking forward to confirmation classes and the confirmation ceremony in early 2024. Sunday school itself continues to evolve. We continue to invent things to make it interesting and fun for the children. Recruiting an additional teacher or two would be very beneficial as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Demeduk

Sunday School Superintendent

Fellowship and Pastoral Care Report

The Fellowship Interest Group consists of Diane Bowles, Verla Cleland, Maxine Hannam, Marilyn Muir, Marion Kozak, Roberta Popoff, Laura Regier, Kay Shawcross, Sandra Walker, and chair-person Betty Jubinville.

Karen Carswell retired from the Fellowship group in the fall. She will be greatly missed for all her contributions to both the committee and St. Andrew's.

The Caring Community Ministry consists of Vinny Ashton, Ellen Bruneau, Verla Cleland, Maxine Hannam, Karen Lumley, and Roberta Popoff.

Charlotte Lindsay maintains the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

For this report, each committee will report individually.

The Fellowship Committee:

Many of the COVID restrictions were lifted in 2023 and the Fellowship Interest Group once again served refreshments after the Sunday services. The refreshments for the first Sunday of the month were served by individuals in the congregation. The Fellowship group is very thankful for their support.

We were able to hold the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, February 2, 2023. There were over 80 people in attendance and many stayed to visit with friends. This event had a net profit of \$250.29. Next year, there will be additional sausages (we promise).

Pie day was March 12, 2023, and 14 pies were donated from members of the congregation. Leftover pie slices were sold and \$98.00 was raised. St. Andrew's added additional funds and a cheque for \$500.00 was sent to St. Matthew's Maryland as they had recently had a major break-in.

We discussed holding an Easter Breakfast but decided that Easter Sunday morning was a busy time for families and the church. The attendance for this event had dropped significantly prior to COVID.

The Church picnic lunch was held on May 7, 2023. This event was held indoors due to the weather. The Fellowship Interest group served a hotdog lunch with individual chips, ice-cream and freezies. There were over 85 people in attendance and there were many games for everyone.

The Prairie to Pine conference was held at Meadowood United Church from June 2 to 4 2023. The Fellowship group prepared cookies for the June 2 lunch.

Celebration Sunday was held on September 10, 2023, and approximately 80 people attended. Like the Church picnic, the lunch was slightly modified by pre-wrapping the hot dogs, serving individual bags of chips and individual ice-cream sundaes. Although the service was held inside due to weather, the children were able to go outside for the bouncy castle.

On November 19, 2023, the Fellowship interest Group held a Perogy Lunch immediately after the service. Lunch consisted of 5 perogies, ham, coleslaw and ice-cream with chocolate sauce. There were approximately 85 people in attendance.

This year we decided to continue with the modified version of the Cookie Walk on December 2 & 3, 2023. We took orders for pre-boxed cookies. Each box included a selection of 3 dozen cookies. Over 92 boxes were sold for a net profit of \$1,770.08. The Cookie Walk is a fundraiser for the church and the congregation generously supported this event by baking over 280 dozen cookies as well as purchasing cookies. Thank you everyone for your tremendous support!

Maxine Hannam again took the lead of the Memory Tree on Oak Street. This event took place on December 10, 2023. This year we were able to hold a short service in the sanctuary followed by the lighting of the tree at 5 PM. Hot chocolate was served outdoors. Heather sang a beautiful solo and led everyone with carols. It was a beautiful

evening and very meaningful. The Memory Book was updated with the 2023 names and was on display for the service. The Memory Book will continue to be displayed in the Narthex (back of the church) for all to view throughout the year. A donation of \$1,500.00 was sent to Jocelyn House, a privately-owned palliative care facility. A huge thank you to Gord & Kay Shawcross for putting the lights on the evergreen tree near the outdoor manger scene and to those who prepared the service.

We were able to resume in-person meetings this year. It was so wonderful to see everyone and we were excited to plan and hold events.

In December, our interest group prepared cookie packages to be delivered to over 20 members of our congregation who are at residences and care facilities. Karen delivered these cookies while visiting.

Our interest group would like to thank the congregation, our friends, and family for their continued support and help. We could not do this without you!

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Jubinville

Chair, Fellowship & Pastoral Care Group

Caring Community and Rose Ferries Prayer Shawl Ministry:

The Caring Community is an interest group operating as a sub-group of Fellowship and Pastoral Care. Our purpose is to connect with those of our congregation who are experiencing difficulties and/or who are homebound. Together, with Rev. Karen Lumley, we are in the process of determining how this purpose can be best achieved in the coming year, specifically regarding in-person visiting.

The goal of the Rose Ferries Prayer Shawl Ministry is to gift prayer shawls to those dealing with illness or bereavement. The shawls provide comfort and warmth and are a tangible representation of the congregation's care and support for those in need. Additionally, baby shawls are provided to infants and young children upon baptism as a symbol of the

congregation's welcome to the child and their family. This activity is supervised by our Office Manager, Charlotte Lindsay. If you would like to volunteer to knit either type of shawl, please contact Charlotte for more information and the patterns.

We also send cards to those who are ill, bereaved, or confined to their homes. Each card incorporates a drawing of St. Andrew's on the front. The cards are designed by Colette Berriault, and her artistry is appreciated by many. As with the shawls, they represent the congregations' support and prayers. In 2023, 79 cards were sent (11 Thinking of You; 15 Sympathy; 29 at Christmas to shut-ins; 24 during Holy Week to those bereaved since the previous Easter). The Card Ministry is the responsibility of Ellen Bruneau in collaboration with Karen and Charlotte, and a personal message is written on each card.

Group members are Vinny Ashton, Verla Cleland, Maxine Hannam, Roberta Popoff, Rev. Karen Lumley and Ellen Bruneau.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Bruneau

For the Caring Community

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church Foundation

The St. Andrew's River Heights United Church Foundation was established in 1975 and was initially funded with funds derived from special gifts transferred over from the church in the original amount of \$12,217.63, and then added to with the sale of the church manses. Since its inception, the Foundation's assets have grown as a result of bequests, memorial gifts and donations. A minimum of 80% of the annual and/or accrued income derived from the Foundation's investments is distributed annually to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church to be employed in the ongoing mission and work of the church.

Over the past many years, the Foundation has been invested in a diversified portfolio, however with the majority invested in fixed income investments such as money market funds, bonds and deposit notes. As at December 31, 2023, 49% of the market value of the Foundation's assets were invested in fixed income or equivalent investments (comprised of Guaranteed Investment Certificates and provincial, municipal and corporate bonds ranging in duration from 1 to 6 years, and preferred shares) and with 44% being invested

in equity mutual funds, common stocks, real estate trust units (comprised primarily of large cap Canadian companies, US and international growth and dividend funds and a Canadian real estate investment trust). The remaining balance, approximately 6%, was held in cash on December 31, 2023.

Over the past number of years, due to relatively higher percentage of fixed income investments, the Foundation’s balance sheet and rate of return has been quite stable. The table below indicates the *approximate* market value of the Foundation

* (inclusive of accrued interest) as of December 31 in each of the past 5 years:

2017	\$891,000
2018	\$834,000
2019	\$886,000
2020	\$892,000
2021	\$1,028,880
2022	\$933,042
2023	\$981,772

The annual donations to the foundation in 2023 were \$1,084.00, as compared to \$20,186.98 in 2022.

The Foundation’s investment advisors (CIBC Wood Gundy) have confirmed that the annualized rates of return for the foundation investment portfolio as of December 31st, 2023, were as follows:

From 2014 to 12-2023 (10 year)	4.433%
01-2019 to 12-2023 (5 year)	5.825%
01-2022 to 12-2023 (3 year)	5.230%
01-2023 – 12-2023 (1 year)	7.666%

During the 2023 calendar year, Foundation investments earned interest and dividend income of approximately \$35,348.16. This income covered the \$35,000.00 contributed from the Foundation to the operation of St. Andrew’s Church during the 2023 calendar year. During the 2024 calendar year, the Foundation projects earnings will be approximately \$36,000.00 on investments. At the Foundation annual meeting held in November of 2023, the Board decided to set the gift to the church for this year to 3.5% of assets at the year end to comply with CRA minimum for Foundations for the 2024 calendar year, as determined by our external accountants. Financial statement preparation, review costs and income tax filing costs for 2023 (payable in 2024) are anticipated to be in the neighborhood of \$5,000.00 plus taxes.

The specific and memorial gifts received by the Foundation during 2023 are set forth in Schedule 'A' to this Report, which were in the total amount of \$1,084.00. Once again, the Foundation Board expresses sincere thanks to all who gave so generously to the Foundation during the 2023 calendar year.

As Chair, I would encourage all members of the church and other individuals or organizations who utilize the church building for the advancement of community objectives and activities, to make annual donations as well as planned gifts to the Foundation. All gifts to the Foundation receive a charitable donation tax receipt which reduces the out-of-pocket cost of the gift. It is particularly useful in estate planning to consider gifting registered investments such as an RRSP or RRIF to a charity (if such investments are not eligible to be 'rolled over' to a surviving spouse as beneficiary). In situations where the registered investment cannot be gifted or 'rolled over' to a surviving spouse, the donor's estate will receive a significant reduction in tax that would otherwise be payable to Canada Revenue Agency upon collapse of the registered investment. Money that would otherwise go to Canada Revenue Agency may thereby find its way into the Foundation to serve the broader purposes of the Foundation and the church. Please speak with your investment advisor, accountant, or lawyer for more information in planning your charitable estate gifts. Your gifts enable the Foundation to contribute financially to the ability of St. Andrew's River Heights United Church to serve both the community of faith within the church and the broader outreach work of The United Church of Canada. Gifts to the Foundation truly are gifts that 'keep on giving' - while you are alive and after you have departed this world. The Foundation encourages gifts made at any time during your lifetime or as a charitable bequest under your will or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Please direct any enquiries or questions to any member of the Foundation Board or to Paul Webster at 204-269-5444.

As Chair of the Board of the Foundation, I wish to thank all the members of the Board for their valuable assistance. Again, this year, I wish to express thanks for the tireless efforts and contributions of David Wreford as secretary of the Foundation and to thank Mark Braun of CIBC Wood Gundy for his investment counsel.

As of December 31, 2023, the following persons were members of the Board of the Foundation:

Rev. Karen Lumley, David Wreford, Bill Craddock, Deborah Metcalfe, John Barber, Rob Siddall, Maggie Henderson, and Allison Koots.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Webster

Chair

*cash + interest receivable + market values of investments

Schedule "A"

St. Andrew's River Heights United Church Foundation Annual Report 2023

NATURE OF GIFT:

DONOR:

SPECIFIC GIFTS:

Iris McKay
Deborah Metcalfe
Canada Helps
Strategic Charitable Giving Program

Ministry and Personnel Report

The Ministry & Personnel Interest Group is a confidential consultative body that supports the pastoral relationship in the United Church. We describe ourselves as “being in ministry together”, recognizing that the work of the paid ministry personnel is only part of the work of the ministry. There are also several other staff positions for which the M&P Interest Group is responsible including the office manager, caretaker, choir director, organist and financial administrator.

Duties of the M&P Interest Group include:

- Provide a consultative and supportive agency
- Review working conditions and remuneration
- Oversee the relationship of staff members among themselves and with the congregation
- Conduct annual staff evaluations
- Review regularly the responsibilities of staff and revise position descriptions when required
- Monitor continuing education

As a committee, we have three main areas of responsibility: Administration, Personnel and Ministry.

Administration

Charlotte Lindsay, our office manager, is responsible for organizing, coordinating, and supervising office operations and procedures. Charlotte tracks membership, manages calendars, coordinates events and facility management and maintains our website and an email database that enables electronic communication with our congregation and community partners. Her office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Personnel

Katy Harmer is our Director of Music. Katy is responsible for overseeing and, most often, participating in the overall musical life of our church. Through collaboration with the minister, Katy provides a guiding vision for the music ministry at St. Andrew’s River Heights United Church.

Wes Elias is our organist. In addition to providing accompaniment for hymns and anthems, Wes plays preludes, offertories, and postludes as well as music for weddings and funerals. Wes’ contribution to the online service has been outstanding and M&P would like to recognise and thank Wes for his contribution.

As Financial Administrator and Treasurer, and reporting to the Finance Interest Group, Bill Craddock manages the financial affairs of St. Andrew's. For 45 years, Bill has served on many committees including the Service Team. Thank you, Bill, for the many hats you wear in your role.

Cecilia Echeverria Salcedo was hired at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church in the Caretaker position effective April 1, 2023. Cecy brings a rich background of experience and strong work ethic, with exceptional attention to detail. Cecy is a certified gardener and will put these skills to work maintaining the grounds.

Ministry

Our Ministry is led by Full-Time Minister Rev. Karen Lumley whose focus is worship including preaching and sacraments, pastoral care, adult education, and attracting and retaining members.

Conclusion

The M&P Interest Group would like to offer a special thank you to all the additional St. Andrew's volunteers for the many hours spent performing countless tasks and projects throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining our interest group, I would be pleased to speak with you. The M&P Interest Group is always available to handle comments or questions from the members of our congregation. All enquiries will be handled in a confidential manner.

The M&P Interest Group members are:

Michael Duncan - mduncan@nhpi.ca

Heather Kozak - hkozak@live.com

Tara Snider – tbrous@aol.com

Ellen Bruneau – (on leave)

Sincerely,

Michael Duncan

Chairman, M&P Interest Group

Outreach Report

Thank you to past co-chairs Joan Stevenson and Vinny Ashton for their continued support and guidance. Members; Peter Brehaut, Clark Brownlee, Sonja Lundstrom, Allison Koots and Kelvin Koots. Kathy Knowles is our liaison to the Church Council and provides hands-on support.

Individual members of the congregation volunteer with Oak Table, 1JustCity, Bear Clan, Meet Me at Bell Tower, Just A Warm Sleep, etc. I would like to highlight the initiatives of the Outreach Group during 2023:

- February 19, 9-10 am in the lounge. Arthur Weldon the OT with St Boniface Street Links shared their organisations outstanding efforts to address homelessness while considering the underlying problems of addictions and mental health. Brandon, a guest, shared his personal story and experiences.
- March 19, 9-10 am. Thomas Wardell joined us in the auditorium for a "Conversation of Inclusion: Learning About Transgender Identities"
- April 30, 9-10 am. Glynis Quinn, John McKay and Desiree from 1JustCity presented in the lounge; "Reconciliation and the Impact Employment has on Indigenous People" challenges to becoming a workplace with fair representation of Indigenous people

Donated muffins, coffee/tea were available for these 3 learning opportunities that were well attended with between 32 - 42 people at each one. Thank you to Charlotte for creating the posters for all the events.

- September 24, a casual lunch with sandwiches from Feast Cafe & Bistro, an Indigenous-owned and operated restaurant. Followed by the presentation with John McKay who is the Indigenous Cultural Program Lead and Elder Mike Monias from 1 Just City. 46 people learned that, "Reconciliation begins in the heart - Begins when we become aware".
- October 15, 2023, was Outreach Sunday - Members of the group lead the service with guest Minister Josh Ward providing the sermon

We welcome your suggestions and participation with the Outreach Group. During a survey, it was suggested that St Andrews should do more Outreach. We need your help and input to make this happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Grewar

Chair, Outreach Group

Meals on Wheels:

A brief history: Meals on wheels began during World War II. The first delivery in Winnipeg was on June 30, 1965; during that first year a total of 10, 308 meals were delivered.

Currently, in our city the meals are all prepared at a central location in St. Boniface and transported to nine 'loading-areas': eight hospitals scattered across Winnipeg plus one senior citizen's home. As you might know, we at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church, have a Meals on Wheels volunteer team identified as Route #4 which picks up at the Misericordia Hospital.

An average run for Route #4 might include 8-10 meals delivered to locations within River Heights plus a small part of Tuxedo. Deliveries are made Monday-Friday and take approximately an hour-hour and a half to complete including food pickup and cooler drop off at the Misericordia. Several members of our Church are on the Route #4 Team including the following folks who have a connection to our church: Kay & Gord Shawcross, Caroline Lutes, Sharon Colina & Deb Baty, Allison & Ken Koots, plus Clark Brownlee & Joan Stevenson.

Clark and I have enjoyed being part of the Route #4 team and have definitely learned from the experience. One could say that this is rather a satisfying volunteer job where we can choose the dates that work for our schedule plus the number of days we wish to drive. Most of all, it is basically rewarding because volunteers are in a position to be a helper to others. The residents are always friendly and appreciative. I guess that is one of the reasons why Meals on Wheels has survived since sometime around 1940.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Stevenson

Property and Administration Report

Your 2023 P&A group comprised acting chairs Gord Shawcross and John Swan, secretary Sue Wiste and members Murray Cameron and Dave Wreford. We do thank them all for their hard work and advice. We also thank Cecilia Salcedo, Karen Lumley, Charlotte Lindsay, Michael, Bill Craddock, Cam Regier and others too numerous to mention who provided invaluable backup advice and assistance in many different ways.

P&A's normal in-person meetings were held on the first Tuesday evening of most months, with the usual summer break. The council was kept informed throughout the entire year of any significant developments related to P&A responsibilities.

As always, we would welcome new members. If you have skills or interests that you would like to put to use in maintaining or improving our building, its physical plant, and its environment, please contact Gord Shawcross or John Swan. They would be delighted to hear from you.

As in 2022, the compulsory daily boiler safety inspections and checks were contracted out at a considerable saving compared with the cost of hiring a full-time employee with sufficient qualifications to monitor our steam boiler/heating system as required by the provincial government. Otherwise, the usual minor plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilation, compressor and security issues were dealt with by P&A members. These tasks included unplugging blocked drains, repairing furniture, negotiating rental details with long-term and occasional renters, doing security checks, arranging access for individuals and groups at times when the building is normally closed, liaising with the snow-clearing contractor, review and renewal of insurance policies, keeping and distributing monthly meeting minutes and job priority lists, and monitoring defibrillation and first-aid kits.

P&A did virtually no major repairs or improvements during 2023. Toward year-end, however, serious issues developed with both the elevator and the heating system. The necessary repairs were costly and adversely impacted the maintenance budget, with financial fall-out from the heating problems unfortunately overflowing into 2024

Security enhancements put in place in 2022 at the 255 Oak St. entrance, to comply with provincial regulations for daycares, were fine-tuned as required during the year. Also, changes in washroom allocation were made to improve servicing and availability of these facilities to visitors, congregation members, daycare staff and students. Further adjustments may be made as necessary.

Discussions regarding our outdated major building systems (electrical, deteriorated flat roof area repairs, heating and plumbing) are ongoing with the objective of finding long-term strategies for keeping this vital infrastructure operating efficiently and preventing the chances of a major failure. Of course, funding is a critical aspect of this work, and various options are being investigated.

In conclusion, the group would like to again stress its gratitude to the congregation as a whole and to the many individual members who not only show up on Sundays but take part in the many other spiritual and social activities that make St. Andrew's the important community resource and focus that it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Wreford,
P&A member

Stewardship Report

The world still continues to be challenged by Covid. The world still continues to be challenged by Covid-19. However, there are marked signs of improvement. At St. Andrew's, there are more and more people attending Sunday services and the choir is normally comprised of 22-24 singers on a weekly basis.

It is under these circumstances that members of St. Andrew's determinedly make their pledges for the 2024 year.

The Stewardship Committee thanks each of you who are able to donate to the life and work of the church in 2024. Some of the normal fund-raising activities are slowly beginning to re-appear. We do know that government support has disappeared! However, we also know that as a community, the work of God and Jesus will continue through all future challenges.

Thank you to all who are able to contribute!

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Fearn

Chair, Stewardship Group

Worship Report

The Worship Group has the responsibility to support the Ministerial Team in the provision of weekly worship services. This includes having ushers, scripture readers and other helpers as needed each Sunday, and the preparation of the sanctuary for special services such as baptisms, communion, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. We appreciate the assistance of Colleen Watters to arrange for the weekly scripture readers. We also extend thanks to the various people who have assisted in serving communion and in the preparation and clean-up of communion elements and serving utensils.

The church was specially decorated for Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Advent and Christmas. The Worship Group and many volunteers have helped out with this, including delivering flowers following the Easter and Thanksgiving Service. The Christmas season decorations take a team of people to put up and take down and all helpers are appreciated. This year, thanks go especially to the choir members who helped with taking the outdoor nativity pieces out of storage and setting up the scene outside. Members of the Property and Administration Group also participated in setting up all the decorations.

Our weekly services are supported by Tyler Craddock who runs the sound system and Fred Cross who video tapes and uploads the service to You Tube. This year, our Family Christmas Eve service was recorded a week early and then uploaded on Christmas Eve

afternoon. This allowed for a larger number of children to participate and for families to view the service at a convenient time.

A highlight of Christmas each year has been the Lessons and Carols service led by the choir on Christmas Eve. This year was no exception and I'm sure those attending found inspiration from the familiar and the new carols and readings this year. Thanks to Katy and the choir, the readers and all the other helpers.

We continue to share some services with Westworth United Church. We alternate holding the Good Friday service, share summer services, and share two services following Christmas. We expect to continue this and are exploring other possibilities in shared worship.

We have regularly heard other ministers and speakers on Sundays. This is a support to our minister, Karen, so she can catch up on visiting, taking part in the Sunday Scholl and covering her holiday and study leaves. Each of these speakers have offered us a different perspective on a variety of topics and we thank them all.

The Worship Group reviewed the discussions recorded from our "Let's Talk Church" Sunday. Out of the various comments and suggestions, we have tried to reduce the repetition of announcements between the bulletin and the pulpit. It was also suggested that we try to incorporate more dramatic presentations in the services. We thank Karen for her portrayal of various people to bring to life the scripture readings.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Worship Group, Karen Lumley, Katy Harmer, Wes Elias, Rita Swan, Judy Bourcier, Linda Paul and Martha Graham.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth McKenzie

Chair, Worship Group

Other Reports

Anna Blair Circle Report

The Anna Blair Circle met on September 26, 2023, for an initial meeting after the pandemic hiatus to plan for the coming year. Our first group activity was a visit to the Scandinavian Centre on October 24th with guide Sonja Lundstrom giving us a wonderful tour of the history and artifacts of Scandinavia. A Christmas potluck lunch on November 27th was well-attended. We will continue to meet monthly as a St. Andrew's women's group. We are glad to welcome new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris McKay

On behalf of the ABC Interest Group

Senior Choir Report

2023 has been a musical year for the St. Andrew's congregation, with the choir singing most Sundays, January – May, and September – December. This is a welcome return to 'normal' after the disruptions over the previous years! Over the past year, the choir has prepared many varied pieces for weekly services, enhancing our worship with musical offerings, hymns, and responses.

Our Section Leader roster has had a few changes over the past year. We bid farewell to Nolan Kehler, who is pursuing further career opportunities, and to Sarah Witiuk who has gone on maternity leave (Caleb Witiuk was born in October 2023). We have welcomed three new section leaders to fill vacancies: Ian Olson, Shea Carter, and Loralie Friesen. Along with Judy Oatway, Susanne Reimer, Lorenz Sarrondo, Paul Forget and Fred Cross, we are grateful for their musical leadership and solo offerings week to week.

The Handbell Choir has re-formed and played in worship on Easter Sunday (April 9), and November 26. They have a steady roster of 8 players but will happily accept any new members who would like to try playing bells.

In April, the choir presented their annual Fundraising Show, “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” – the first since 2020. The choir sang four selections, with solos and small ensembles filling out the rest of the programme. The two performances were both well attended, and enjoyed by audience and singers alike. Funds raised were given to the church.

In the summer, we were approached by Matthew Hannam, asking to include audio from one of our services in the film, “Iron Claw”. After appropriate approvals were obtained, we agreed to allow the audio of “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” in the film. This was an unusual, but not unwelcome, request!

In November, St. Andrew’s hosted the Royal Canadian College of Organists Winnipeg Chapter 100th anniversary celebration. This was a wonderful evening service that highlighted our beautiful pipe organ, masterfully played by Wes Elias and Linda Fearn. Our St. Andrew’s choir formed the core of a special massed choir of singers from various congregations. A large congregation and choir truly made the evening a special event!

We closed the year with our annual Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, which is always a calm and beautiful way to look forward into the new year.

We are grateful for the musical direction given by Wes Elias and Katy Harmer week-to-week, and a special thank you to Fred Cross who continues to record, edit and upload services to YouTube.

We are looking forward to the 2024 church year, with even more wonderful music making!

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Reimer

Choir President

Katy Harmer

Music Director

**Annual General Meeting
St Andrew's River Heights United Church
Sunday, February 26, 2023, 11:30 a.m.**

1. Call to order and declaration of quorum

Welcome by Rob Siddall and meeting called to order.

Quorum achieved (approximately 60).

2. Opening prayer and time of remembrance

Karen delivered a prayer and recognized the congregants that have passed away this past year.

3. Motion allowing adherents to vote

Rob explained the need for a motion allowing adherents to vote. Moved by Glenn Neufeld, seconded by Bob Barr. All in favour.

4. Election of meeting secretary

Rob explained the need for a motion to elect a meeting Secretary. Anne Grewar nominated Lisa Richards as Secretary of the meeting. There were no further nominations. All in favour.

5. Acceptance of February 27, 2022, Annual General Meeting minutes

Moved by Joan Stevenson, seconded by Jody Kerr. All in favour.

6. Tabling of Group Reports

The 2022 Group reports, which formed part of the Annual Report that had been distributed to members of the Congregation, were tabled at the meeting. Rob suggested that people read the Group reports if they have not already done so as they describe some of the very important work carried on by the many Church Groups.

7. Council Report

The 2022 Council Report, which also formed part of the Annual Report, was tabled at the meeting. Rob advised that he had thought that 2022 had been a reasonably good year for St. Andrew's, and that after having started the year in lockdown things had

almost returned to normal. He collectively recognized the many groups and people who had contributed so much to the Church in 2022.

8. Foundation Report

Paul Webster summarized the Foundation Report (found in the Annual Report 2022) and thanked Deborah Metcalfe for her contributions to the Foundation in previous years.

9. Finance Report

Bill Craddock reported on the 2022 financial statements, and presented the 2023 budget.

a) Tabling of independently reviewed 2022 financial statements

Bill reported on the independently reviewed 2022 financial statements which were tabled at the meeting (they were distributed at the meeting and also formed part of the 2022 Annual Report). They reflected a small surplus of \$1,919.

b) Approval of 2023 budget

Bill presented the 2023 draft budget, which was distributed at the meeting and which was also in the 2022 Annual Report. Moved by Greg Fearn, seconded by Jody Kerr, that the 2023 budget, as presented to the meeting, be approved. All in favour.

10. Nominations and elections for (a) Council, and (b) Foundation Board

a. Council- 2 new members

Nominating Group- Glenn Neufeld, Rob Siddall, Anne Grewar, Bill Craddock

Recognition of members who are stepping down this year:

- Anne Grewar- served on Council since 2012, has agreed to Chair the Outreach Group
- Sarah Witiuk- 3 years of serving on Council, member of the Choir since 2012

Glenn Neufeld then nominated the following people to serve on Council for the upcoming year:

- Karen Lumley, Rob Siddall (Chair), Lisa Richards (Vice-Chair), Bill Craddock, Michael Duncan, Kathy Knowles, Glenn Neufeld, Leigh Carlson and Iris McKay.
- There were no further nominations. All in favor, elected for upcoming year.

b. Foundation Board- 4 new members

Rob advised that there are currently five “ex officio” members - Paul Webster (Chair), David Wreford, Rob Siddall, Bill Craddock and Karen Lumley. He announced that four additional members are to be elected by the Congregation.

Paul Webster nominated the following:

- Deborah Metcalfe, John Barber, Alison Koots, Maggie Henderson

There were no further nominations. All in favor, elected for upcoming year.

11. Other business

Rita Swan proposed further Prairie to Pine representatives - she is our sole current representative. She encouraged others to join, as we can have more than one representative. Rita provided some additional information on the role and responsibilities.

12. Expressions of appreciation

Anne Grewar thanked many individuals who contributed significantly to our Church during 2022.

- The Anna Blair Circle for the AGM lunch
- Karen Lumley for her moral guidance and leading by example
- Bill Craddock for his dedication in managing St Andrew's finances
- Charlotte Lindsey our office manager and tech support
- Fred Cross who records and edits the service each and every week
- Glenn Neufeld for his leadership with the return to in-person services
- Katy Hamer who continues to showcase the quality music at St. A
- Wes Elias our organist and pianist
- Tyler Craddock who ensures the sound system is working and speakers are heard every Sunday
- Ruth McKenzie for her help in organizing our Sunday morning worship services and assisting Colleen Watters to arrange scripture readers each week
- David Wreford who opens the church when needed

- Rita Swan who was a student in the lay workshop leadership program for her contributions
- Jan and Evan Demeduck for their contributions with the children and youth christian education
- Jeff Kremer for his effort maintaining the building
- Gord Shawcross and John Swan for going above and beyond the call of duty, and to all the members of the property committee for the hands-on work they do
- All the members of the congregation for continuing to participate in the Sunday services in many different ways
- The many volunteers who give freely of their time throughout the year.

13. Closing prayer

Karen delivered a closing prayer.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm

If you would like additional copies of this report, please email
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church office at office@standrewsriverheights.com