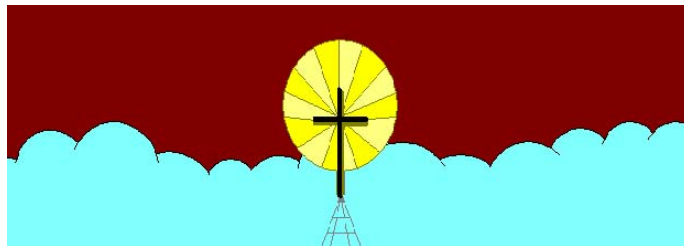


Woodlawn United Church
Annual Report
2009

*Faith Alive
at 125!!!*

1884-2009



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FOR YEAR ENDING December 31, 2009

Special Notes

Financial statements not yet presented to the council or congregation will be in the form of a separate attachment.

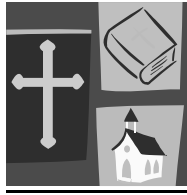


IN MEMORIAM

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| *Geoffrey George Wallace Ellwood | January 5 | *Cornelia (Cora) Johanna DeGroot | July 31 |
| *Harry Gladstone Graham | January 12 | Bryan Christopher McDonald | August 2 |
| *Eva Jean Staples | January 15 | *Isabel Susan Bailey | August 8 |
| *Ian Chisholm | February 10 | *Lawrence Burdick Mandy | August 26 |
| *Kenneth William Hartlen | February 26 | *Mary Elizabeth Moore | September 2 |
| *Leah Marie Trider | March 3 | Frank Hopgood Jones | September 11 |
| *Evelyn (Hope) Dunbar | March 28 | *Beatrice May Deacon | September 27 |
| Joseph (Joe) Ashton Snooks | May 7 | *Kathleen (Kaye) LeRoux | October 12 |
| *Raymond Stanley Atwood | May 8 | Violet Madeline Ruth Kerr | October 15 |
| Greta Claire Cross | May 9 | Lenora Grace Cross | November 7 |
| Doris Marguerite Carder | June 3 | Edna Louise Campbell | November 13 |
| *Marjorie Guthro | June 24 | *Joyce Mary Banks | December 4 |
| *Grace Compton | June 28 | *Alfred Harriott | December 16 |
| Elizabeth (Bessie) Hilda Shrum | July 10 | Ronald Cross | December 18 |
| *Doreen Claire Boutilier | July 12 | Roy A Ritchie | December 27 |
| *Anne Lucille Miller | July 16 | *Evelyn Mitchell | December 29 |

(*Members of Woodlawn United Church)

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God. (Wisdom of Solomon 3:5)



“For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

It is now time for us to look back over the past year, to reflect, to learn and to look to the future. We believe that this has been an amazing year for Woodlawn United Church - the Holy Spirit is certainly moving and Her presence is being felt in every corner of this place. When you read your annual report and see all that we (collectively) have done over the past twelve months, we are sure that you will agree that we have much to celebrate and be thankful for as a church.

“Be still and know that I am God!” is often a very difficult thing to do here at Woodlawn. It is a place that never sleeps. It is a busy place - a safe and sacred space - that is used by our church community and the community at large. This means that it is often hard to find a place to hold impromptu meetings or studies. And yet, this is a good thing, and something to be celebrated!

Again, 2009 has been a year of change, challenge and celebration. The spring brought many changes in our staff portfolio. So much so that, in less than two years, we are your senior staff. ☺ In the spring, Burnell Field hung up his broom and tool belt after years of dedicated service as our custodian. In our eyes, Burnell was a loving “caretaker” who always took “care” of all of us. Sean Hanko, who took over this position, has mighty big shoes to fill, but to his credit, Sean is doing a great job and we are thankful to have him in our midst.

In June, we said *adieu* to Terry Hill as our Director of Music who retired after 21 years of faithful, always “in-tune” ministry with us. It was a sad day for us but we are thankful for his time and wish him good health, peace and happiness. In September, we celebrated as we covenanted with John Lindsay-Botten as our new Director of Music. We also welcomed Vanessa, Mariella and Barrett Lindsay-Botten into our family. John has introduced us to many new hymns and styles of music, especially from More Voices, and to the use of drums in worship. We are grateful for John’s gifts of music and for his insight.

In the fall, we thanked Sarah Sampson and Krista Jupp for their willingness to step up, give of their gifts and accept the challenge of overseeing the Youth and Sunday School programs last year, in our greatest hour of need. At the same time, we covenanted with Shannon MacLean, our new Youth Minister, who brings with her - contagious energy, experience, wisdom and a love of children and youth. We also welcomed Jack, Grace and Julia. Sunday School and Youth programs under the leadership of Shannon are AWESOME and give us great hope and excitement about the “now” as well as the future of Woodlawn! We are thankful for her ministry.

We are thankful for all that Donna Macumber does for us and for our church community. She has a welcoming manner and a great laugh. She is a hard-worker, fast learner and multi-tasker. She often goes over and beyond what is her “job” description. She is not only the church administrator but she is also a confidant, pastoral care worker and friend. The office is a busy and sometimes hectic place. It is also the face and voice of Woodlawn to members, strangers and newcomers alike and we are overjoyed that Donna is our first contact person. We also want to thank Freda Rogers, our “girl Thursday”, for her willingness to volunteer to come faithfully every Thursday is a gift to all of us. Also, it would not be Friday morning at the office without the smiles and expert bulletin folding hands of Doris Lockhart, Ruth Lohnes and Joan MacLeod.

We hold monthly staff meetings, on the first Thursday morning of every month, to catch up, share information, problem solve and plan for the future. These are exciting meetings and show a great congeniality amongst the staff. Our thanks also go to the Ministry and Personnel Committee, under the leadership of Maarten Kramers for looking after us and providing a delicious Christmas lunch.

When we mused over the highlights of the year - of which there are many - the one that comes consistently to mind is Worship. This is mainly because we are all together at this point in the week. It is when we celebrate who we are and whose we are in Jesus Christ. It is when we discern together how to be faithful and loyal servants and disciples of Jesus Christ. And what a year of celebration we have had. In fact,

it is almost next to impossible to find a Sunday which did not have a special element. Besides our weddings {5}, baptisms {14}, Confirmations {7} and communion celebrations {6}, we have had a number of intergenerational Sundays geared toward all ages; meaningful youth led worship for Easter "Sonrise" Service, international Children's Sunday, White Gift and Christmas Eve. It is so moving and exciting to worship God listening to the young voices and hearing the Word of God; services led by the Scouts and Guides, and a UCW service where a meaningful Prayer Shawl Ministry was launched. We have had services that celebrate our heritage - such as our 125th Anniversary - and what a celebration it was and continues to be! Our thanks go to Peter and Maureen Woods for heading up and shouldering this awesome committee. This Anniversary Celebration will continue until October, 2010.

We have offered alternative services of worship with music, drama and dance. Special services for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, Holy Hilarity Sunday, Pentecost with Sparky the Clown, Presbytery Service where we covenanted with Wyman Benjamin as the chair of Presbytery, Blessing of the Animals (very positive response - with 20 animals participating), Remembrance Day Sunday, Memorial Service, Celebrating Prison Ministry, "Come Visit the Stable" with over 450 crèches available for viewing thanks to the UCW, and Blue Christmas Service were well attended and appreciated.

We also had the sad task of preparing {31} funeral services of Celebration. Many thanks to all who help to make this sad time just a little easier: Sean for setting things up; Dorothy Lindsay for always playing what is requested; to the sound team for ensuring that the mics are working and for preparing a CD of the service for the family; to the faithful and dedicated choir who just magically show up - your support is more valuable than you will ever know; and a special thanks to Kay Inkpen, our funeral coordinator, and her loyal team, who work so hard looking after all of the various details of a well-planned funeral and ensuring that Woodlawn is a safe and welcoming place for the grieving families and friends to meet. We do not know how we would have survived all of these funerals without your help.

Worship Services do not happen out of thin air and we want to thank all the people who make it possible for us to worship God in a safe and sacred space -the faithful and hardworking Worship Committee under the leadership of Dwight Perkins, the church fusser, the ushers, the greeters, chancel decorations and banners, lay readers, the music providers and the sound technician. We especially want to acknowledge Stewart Sampson who operates the sound system and prepares the CDs for the shut-ins week after week. As we say to the members of the choirs - "may everything that we say, do, sing and dance be to God's praise and Glory!" We are both thankful and proud to be in ministry with all of you.

We are very active in Presbytery. Phillip is Chair of the Gospel, Ecumenism and Theology Committee and Valerie is a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee. Phillip is also on Presbytery Executive. Thank-you to our Presbytery representatives, whose dedication and hard work, shine a positive light on Woodlawn.

On the first Wednesday of every month, we meet with our United Church colleagues to discuss pertinent issues and to share a lunch prepared by one of us. We also participate in the "Good Friday Ecumenical Clergy Gatherings." We have spoken at most of the UCW Unit meetings, the Men's prayer breakfast and the Kiwanis Club. We also conduct worship at Oceanview Manor. We enjoy being part of the Couples Club and hosting the annual corn boil at our home.

Pastoral Care continues to evolve and expand in its responsibilities. We are very thankful to all the members of the Pastoral Care Team under the leadership of Bea Boutilier, who are indeed the hands and feet of Christ - who quietly and faithfully visit the sick in the hospital and homes; send cards and good wishes; and do funeral contacts and follow-up. Thank-you for your prayerful and active ministry. We are excited about some of the changes to the flow of responsibilities that will happen with the restructuring of the Stewardship and Community Life Team to Community of Care. Our hope is that this will lighten the load and make things easier.

Outreach Committee continues to do wonderful and faithful work throughout the year - especially at Christmas time. We thank you for this ministry. Currently Phillip is engaged with the Outreach Committee in rethinking and clarifying its mandate.

Phillip, besides the Tuesday morning Bible Study, led 3 study groups and both an adult and teen confirmation classes. Valerie led a study on Theological Reflection in the fall.

Another highlight has been your willing participation in the "Reading the New Testament over the 125th Anniversary Year Campaign!" We cannot wait to see how many are standing on the steps raising their Bibles! It is not too late to join in and be part of this exciting venture.

Thank-you to the members of the UCW for their faithful service and to the Accessibility Committee under the leadership of Ralph Sams. His dedication and vision of ensuring that Woodlawn United Church is open and available to all who wish to enter the doors is amazing. May the dream and vision become reality.

A healthy church is not one without conflict but one that through prayer and theological reflection, works to resolve any conflict that may arise. It has not been all roses for us - we have had some "upsets," trials and disappointments but we have come together as a church, with God as our leader and helper, to meet these challenges. And we are pleased to say that some of these have been quietly and effectively resolved through prayer and promise, and quiet conversation.

We also want to express our deepest thanks to the Woodlawn Council under the competent leadership of Allan Eddy. Allan, we will miss your steady hand at the helm and your faithful, wise and thoughtful leadership. Margie, we also want to thank you for sharing your excellent secretarial gifts with us. Thanks also to the team leaders and to their many and varied committees. Your work is valuable, essential and appreciated. Again, we are thankful to be in ministry with you!

Saying thank you and highlighting specifics are dangerous because inevitably we will miss someone or some special event. Please forgive us if this has been the case. We value everyone's ministry - all of the contributions given by each of you is important to us as a congregation and to God. We have tried to be faithful to Woodlawn and its many and varied activities - and we attend and participate as much and as often as we are able.

We are aware that our church would be nothing without its faithful and dedicated members and adherents. We are deeply grateful to all of you who have supported the church and our ministry together, - through your time, talent and treasure - those who faithfully attend church, come to meetings, greet at the door, decorate, maintain the buildings, prepare and serve food to our members and those of the community in their time of need and all of you who are the face, hands and voice of the Woodlawn United Church in our community.

Our vision for 2010 is that it continues to be a year where we listen for the Spirit of God and act with God as our leader.

"A Sunday School teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the chapter. One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said,

"The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

Blessings for a healthy and happy 2010 and most of all - may we all experience God's peace!

Rev Valerie and Rev Phillip

YOUTH MINISTER REPORT

It has been a very busy but productive 4 months at Woodlawn. My children and I feel welcomed by the congregation and I am so happy to be made part of a ministry team with such wonderful, gifted people as Valerie and Philip. Woodlawn is very blessed to have such a large group of talented, inquisitive and fun-loving youth. I have never worked with a group of youth so keen to volunteer when asked. The more I get to know the younger members of the congregation the more I am amazed by their spontaneity and fantastic senses of humour. I feel blessed to be filling the position of Youth Minister. I find that most weeks, my hours extend well beyond the allotted 20 hours but there is just so much that I want to do ☺

MINISTRY TO YOUTH

Teen Dimensions/Faith Explorations

There are 25 youth registered in Teen Dimensions/Faith Explorations and between 12 and 16 youth are present most Sunday mornings. We have participated in "get to know you" and team building activities. We have had discussions on issues about human rights and what are believes are. We also planned the worship service for Children's Sunday on Nov 22; 24 youth developed and participated in the service called "We Hold These Children". The artwork for the bulletin, PowerPoint presentation, readings, ushering, and greeting was all done by our youth. I heard many positive comments on the service and feel it was well done and meaningful. In Jan., we will be beginning the program "Jesus 24/7 Youth" which is a 12 week long course in "Christian Faith for the questioning Youth", written by a United Church minister, David Bruce.

Youth / Young Adult Groups

During the fall I began a Sunday Evening Youth Group. The first Sunday of the month is Jr. Youth Group (Grades 6-8), the second Sunday is Sr. Youth Group (Grades 9-12), and the third is a conversation and pizza night for post-high school young adults. The Jr. Youth Group has been attended by 1-10 youth; it isn't unusual to have some variation in the numbers when beginning new programming. The Senior Youth group is attended by 4-6 youth. The topics have ranged from the UN Rights of the Child, discussing what "code" you live by. We have done crafts, played games and watched video clips.

The Young Adult group had 5 youth the first week but none the second and I am getting the feeling that it may not be the best timing for that age group so will re-evaluate in the New Year.

In November, we had a joint meeting and invited other United Churches in the Dartmouth area. We had about 30 attend and had a very fun night. We are planning on extending this invitation to the other groups every couple of months. The next one is planned for January.

Youth Room / Games Room

The Couple's Club made a donation to be used by the youth and we purchased a fridge and microwave for the youth room. We also had a HUGE white board donated to us and it has been installed. I cleaned and gutted the youth room and we added a lock to the door because of the valuable items inside.

The youth spent a day cleaning out Turner Hall (the basement Hall in the Heritage Building). Lots of youth, a couple parents and Dennis Dean came out to help. We filled Dennis's cube van and he went to the dump. A Thank- you card was given to Dennis. We have a donated foosball table and are getting a couple other tables. A youth "Games Room Committee" was formed and with the youth committee (and donations from the congregation) have begun working to get the room made into a comfortable room with table games, board games, couches and a TV. It will be a wonderful space when it is completed and a great space for the Youth Group.

Fundraisers

The youth had a bottle drive in September and raised approximately \$90.00. It was decided following the drive that we would leave our account open at Bluenose Recyclable Centre but would not continue bottle drives because it has been a fundraiser that the Scouts have traditionally done at Woodlawn.

We also were the photographers at the Blessing of the Animals Worship Service in October and raised about \$90. Sandy Withers was a great help and printed all of the photos for us.

The youth will be holding a "Woodlawn Idol" on **Saturday, Feb 6.**

The youth bought two bundles of shingles for the Heritage Centre roofing project with the money we raised.

Youth at University

The youth committee and I send a small Subway gift certificate and a Christmas card to 11 of our youth who are away at university. We wanted them to know we were thinking of them during exam time.

MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

Children's Stories

Each week, I share with the children a story or lesson during the worship service. My intention is to make the story time relevant for the children but meaningful for everyone in the congregation. Most times, I attempt to keep the theme in line with the rest of the worship and the church season but not always. I enjoy this time with the children and the better I get to know the children, the easier I find it is to know the best way to relate to them.... in other words.... things will keep getting better ☺

Sunday School

There are 60 children registered in Sunday School and registration continue to grow. This year, Barbara deBoer has been superintendent and in December, Cathy Kay became Barbara's co-superintendent. I act as a support to the teachers and the co-superintendents. We have teachers meetings about every month or so to touch on any issues that are relevant. Sunday School begins with Circle Time at the beginning of each Sunday and the kids get special recognition if it is their birthday. They have some community time before going off to their classes. We have a WONDERFUL, dedicated group of teachers. We have 5 classes each week for 2 year olds thru Grade 5.

Nursery

The Martha Unit has been operating the nursery. There had been some questions raised about operating the nursery over the summer months. A survey was conducted and based on this information it was decided that the nursery would be clean and available for parents to use as needed over the summer months.

Sunday School Maintenance

The Sunday School rooms and the supply room were all gutted, cleaned and organized before the beginning of Sunday School this year. New bulletin boards and white boards were put in each classroom. The old ones (many original to the building) have been removed. The UCW painted two classrooms in the last couple years and three more and the nursery will be painted in January of 2010!. What a wonderfully clean, welcoming Sunday School we have for our children!

Super Saturday

I had heard about the success in the past of Super Saturdays here at Woodlawn and decided it might be fun to try again. I have held two so far. The Halloween Super Saturday was attended by 15 children and their families. Nancy Elliott and I planned and ran the event. There were crafts, snacks, games, and an inflatable castle you could crawl through. It was a very fun day. Nancy, Barbara deBoer and I hosted an Advent Super Saturday at the end of November. It was not as well attended and only 3 children and 4 adults were there, but success cannot always be measured in numbers and since we all had such a great time, we are excited to host another! We also made a lovely Nativity Scene that day which was displayed at the UCW's "Come Visit the Stable" event.

Worship

I designed a service and the children led worship for White Gift Sunday. They did the play "A Better Christmas Story" and it was very well received. Every child who wanted to participate was able to be a part of the nativity. The children did the play "Starry Night" at the 4 pm service on Christmas Eve. There were approximately 50 children at the front of the church in the Nativity and play, 6 youth were readers and there were more than 400 people in the congregation. I think the worship left people with the true meaning of Christmas!

Dreams

I have many hopes and dreams for 2010.... Running a mystery friends program, developing a FANTASTIC youth retreat at Camp Kidston, having a Vacation Bible School in the summer, visiting the families with children and youth during the summer months.... and the list goes on!

Committee Work

I sit on the Church Council as well as on the Christian Development and Youth Committees. I want to extend gratitude to the chairs of these committees as well as the members, the Sunday School teachers and the co-superintendents who work countless hours to make Woodlawn's ministry to children and youth what it is today. Without all of your dedication and the contribution of your time, we would not be able to offer the same level of outreach, programming and worship that we do.

Thank you.
Shannon MacLean

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Faith alive at 125! Has been an appropriate slogan for our 125th anniversary and a very apt description of the current state of affairs at Woodlawn United.

Faith is very much alive at Woodlawn and is being nurtured through the myriad of Ministries and associated programs and activities which are flourishing at Woodlawn.

Woodlawn Church Council and/or Council Executive met faithfully and regularly throughout this past year to consider and act on the various issues and day-to-day business of Woodlawn. During the period covered by this report, Council called 3 special Congregational meetings to deal with issues of significance to the Woodlawn pastoral charge.

Faith alive at 125! Like many institutions, Woodlawn has been working through difficult economic times. Despite these challenges, the vibrancy of the faith community at Woodlawn led it to vote in favour of formally initiating a campaign to address the physical accessibility and environmental sustainability of our buildings. Surely, this is an expression of the living faith at Woodlawn! Faith, but not a case of blind faith. Prior to coming before the congregation in May, the Accessibility Project required an incredible investment of time and energy by many people. While rational thought and hard work are the foundation, it is the faith of the people of Woodlawn which will breathe life into this project.

Faith alive at 125! After 125 years of existence, Woodlawn has developed a significant heritage. Perhaps the most visible symbol of this is the historic white church or Heritage Centre. Concerns for the viability of this structure and the need to preserve our heritage if possible, caused Council to bring the issue of the future of the Heritage Centre to the Congregation. It was agreed to direct funding to the required renovations and upgrading required to facilitate the Heritage Centre's continued safe operation.

Faith alive at 125! At one hundred and twenty-five years, Woodlawn United could be considered old. Like many other congregations, the hair colour of those in the pews at Woodlawn would tend to indicate that we are an "experienced" congregation, and growing increasingly with each passing year. Woodlawn has always been supportive of youth and youth programming. Over the last several years however, a concern has been growing for the need to be able to attract youth and young families to renew and invigorate our Congregation.

After significant consideration, the issue of the need for a youth-focused staff person was brought directly to the congregation by Council. Again, despite some significant financial challenges, the congregation voted in favour of hiring a qualified individual to fill the role of Youth Minister on a half-time basis (20 hours per week equivalent) to develop, direct and implement youth and Sunday School programming at Woodlawn United for a period of 24 months. A decision as to whether to continue this initiative will be taken by the congregation at the conclusion of this first 24-month period.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Roll Call</p> <p>In Memoriam For 2008</p> | <p>Ralph Sams, Barry Zwicker, Janice Matheson, Bea Boutilier, Don MacMillan, Mary MacMillan, Eudevella Brimner, Gladys Turnbull, Mamie Higgins, Nancy Thompson, Isabel Jones, Ernie Nickerson, Betty Nickerson, Bob Lindsay, Betty Perkins, Dwight Perkins, Brian Moors, Garth Mallett, Doreen Harriett, E. Cunningham, Carol Cunningham, Dorothy Sams, Fay Gunter, Gerry Gunter, Myra Dykeman, Olla Ozon, Freda Rogers ,Eileen Eisener, Joan MacDougall, Mona Ellis, Alan Ellis, Sheila Richardson, Ivan Richardson, Lola Heard, Elizabeth Heatley, Wendy Fitch, Marie Burrows, Jossie Zwicker, Stu Brink, Marg Brink, Aruna Khan, Shirley Zwicker, Barry Zwicker, John Allan, Les Pyne, Shirley MacLeod, John MacLeod, Tom Rogers, Andrew Higdon, Frances Lind, Fran Wade ,Ken Brown, Jeanne F. Young, Jean Adams, Valerie Kennedy, Phillip Kennedy, Allan Eddy, Maarten Kramers, Donna Kramers, Sheila Arklie, Carolyn Horite, Michaella Hortie –Rogers, Marie Vaughan, Kathy Ogden, Joan Mikkelsen, Carol White, Janet Gill, Sandy Kyte, Bill Parker, Wes Adams, David Rhind, Carol Leary-Rhind ,Doris Lockhart, Betty Jardine, Keith Aisthorpe, Lois Aisthorpe, Maddie Clarke, Inez Ehrhardt, Bus Ehrhardt, Darren Taylor, Faye Charlebois, Joan Angus, Nancy Allen, Jim Allen, Dianne Barro, Shirley Lacey, Art Lacey, James Lacey, John MacQueen, Joyce MacQueen, Connie Estabrook, Terry Hill, Dianne Hill, Evelyn Webber, Mary Osborne, Ross Osborne, Shirley Fraser, Jim Fraser, Fran Essex, John Essex, Eleanor Campbell, Helen Henderson, Jean Romkey, John Weare, Florence Walker, Maxine Miller, Bill Walker, John Harlow, Maire Harlow, Ernie MacCulloch.</p> |
| <p>Voting Privileges</p> | <p><u>Moved by Gordon Jocey and Seconded by Alan Ellis that voting privileges be extended to adherents on temporal matters. Carried.</u></p> |
| <p>Devotions</p> | <p>Rev. Valerie Kennedy</p> |
| <p>Approval of Agenda</p> | <p><u>Moved by Brian Moors and Seconded by Maarten Kramers that the agenda be adopted as printed and circulated. Carried.</u></p> |
| <p>Approval of Minutes</p> | <p><u>Moved by Ralph Sams and seconded by Barry Zwicker that the minutes of AGM Feb 24, 2008 contained within the 2008 Annual Report be adopted. Carried.</u></p> |
| <p>Business Arising</p> | <p>No business.</p> |
| <p>Reports</p> | <p><u>Moved by Barry Zwicker and Seconded by Jim Allen that all reports contained in the annual report and circulated including the financial statement be received. Carried.</u></p> |
| <p>Heritage Center</p> | <p>The Heritage Center, portions of which have been in service since 1884, has seen many add-ons and has been utilized for many purposes during its long history. It has served the Woodlawn congregation well. For a number of years the building and its systems have required consistent maintenance and tender loving care. The year 2009 finds us in a situation where yet additional expenditures are required to continue to utilize it as part of our program delivery.</p> <p>The Heritage Center presently requires a minimum expenditure of \$21,000 (furnace, part of the roof, a door) prior to September 2009 in order to remain in operation. Given the age and condition of the building, regular annual expenditures of this magnitude can be anticipated and these expenditures will have significant impact on our ongoing budget considerations.</p> |

It is recommended by the Chair of Trustees, Barry Zwicker, that the congregation approve the following:

1. An ad hoc committee composed of two representatives of the Trustees and three other members of Woodlawn Congregation be struck to gather and collate information concerning the condition of the Heritage Center, its current and projected usage, and its probable requirements for capital and operating expenditures over the next 5-year period.
2. That this committee facilitate a dialogue within and among the Woodlawn congregation with respect to the information specified in #1 above.
3. That, based on the above dialogue, this committee bring a recommendation with respect to expenditures and/or ongoing operation of the Heritage Center for a decision of the congregation at a special meeting of the congregation to be held on or before the end of May 2009.

Moved by Barry Zwicker and Seconded by Art Lacey that the above recommendations be approved. Carried.

Accessibility

Whereas Woodlawn United Church strives to be accessible, and whereas the current infrastructure of Woodlawn United Church presents some significant accessibility challenges, and whereas substantial planning has been completed by the Accessibility Committee of Woodlawn, be it resolved:

1. That the Accessibility Committee be asked to facilitate at least three open house/information sessions prior to the end of April 2009. The purpose of these meetings will be to share its proposal with members of the congregation and to seek feedback.
2. That, based on the above dialogue, this Committee prepare a detailed recommendation, including projected costs and financing options, with respect to a project or projects which should be undertaken over the next 24 months to address the physical accessibility of Woodlawn United Church. That a special congregational meeting be called for May 24, 2009, the purpose of which shall be to consider the proposal(s) and make decisions.

Moved by Alan Ellis and Seconded by Shirley MacLeod. Carried.

Courtesies

Volunteers & Staff

Motion to thank Jim White, owner of Lake City Paint & Paper, for donating labour to paint the Church Hall. **A letter is to be sent by Council. Moved by Shirley MacLeod and seconded by Joan Mikkelson. Carried.**

Expression of thanks to Carol White for her contribution to organizing the painting of the Church Hall. Carol White expressed her thanks to Mary Miriam UCW Unit for the fund raising of \$1700.00 for the paint to do the project. The cost of the paint was discounted 50% by Lake City Paint & Paper.

Moved by Caroline Hortie and seconded by Wendy Fitch that the 2009 budget be approved as presented. Carried.

2009 Budget

Question re: Accessibility Balances

Questions re: GIC Balances

Questions re: Trust Funds

Thanks expressed to John Weare and his wife for their time and service as auditors.

M&S Fund

Moved by Mary Osborne and seconded by Art Lacey that the congregation covenant to support Mission and Service Fund as identified in the budget document in the amount of \$68,391.00 for 2009. Carried.

our ministerial staff. It has been an honor to be part of the Church Council and we appreciate the endeavors of all.

Wendy Fitch & Marilyn Slayter, Co-chairs Administration and Management

COMMUNICATIONS / PR TEAM

The Communications and Public Relations Team has a somewhat predictable role (from its title) and also relates to the work of the Worship Team in aspects of mutual interest, function and concern, principally sound management/recording/video for services.

At this time last year, this Team was trying to supplement its ranks with those who wanted to share in this form of ministry. We have to report a disappointing level of success in that regard. We are thankful to have a number of talented and dedicated persons who feel called to this role, but we are few in number and often overloaded. We are open to add more persons to each aspect of our ministry, and are willing to help refine and develop your skills. Still needed are more audio/video techs, computer operators, powerpoint developers, photographers, reporters, etc.

The C/PR Team has a particular focus on these areas: website, newsletter, media contacts (advertising), congregational email network, and church events photography. In conjunction with Worship Team: service sound support during services; service recording/duplication for distribution to shut-ins, and video projection in services.

Advertising: The Team has been called upon to advertise special services such as Advent and Christmas services, Blue Christmas, Easter. Use is made of paid advertising as well as free ad resources (PSAs, notices). Part of future plans call for a new church sign to be placed in front, which will effectively advertise the many aspects of ministry at WUC. Through Rev. Valerie's initiative, a sign was created in the Advent-Christmas season and its use contributed to public awareness of our services in that season. Bravo to those who stepped up to make it happen, complete with floodlighting! Also our attractive Christmas angels display came and went as if by magic, and was our effective seasonal visual statement to passers-by. The beautiful new 125th Anniversary sign (the work of Dorothy and Ralph Sams) was and is used to good effect. Also, the 100th Anniv. sign which was refurbished by Harvey Slade to reflect the present anniversary, continues to contribute to this milestone anniversary year. Thanks to all involved in those "labours of love".

The **Congregational Email Network**, continued in 2009 as a useful contact means with those in the congregation who provided email addresses to be used for that purpose. There have been many positive comments from members who appreciate the service. Please remember to advise us of any changes in your email address(es). There are now almost 300 addresses in that database.

The planned expansion of the use of **video projection** in services did not occur as had been hoped. This was principally because of difficulty in reaching a consensus on the location of the projection screen(s). This is close to being resolved and should be accomplished in the early part of this year. When this comes on stream, there will be a greater need for additional volunteer participation - in preparation of video PowerPoint programs for regular Sunday use and a need for computer/projection operators. The latter is all readily taught, though the former requires some knowledge of computers, document and PowerPoint preparation, which can be passed on to even modestly experienced operators.

Sound Operation: The weekly worship services, as well as all special services, continued to be recorded on a regular basis. Service distribution is now done exclusively on CDs as there is no longer a demand for cassette tapes. One significant difference is that CDs are a one-use item, unlike tapes, which could be returned and reused, though that was a challenge to make happen with regularity. Most of that sound operation was attended to by Stewart Sampson, whose time and effort we greatly appreciate. After each service, he makes the required CD copies for distribution and uploads at least the sermon portion of the service for placement

on the website. He was on duty for 46 services in 2009, and burned about 240 CDs. Another team attends to all funeral sound needs, and the bereaved families are provided with a CD copy. This need for an ongoing supply of blank CDs has budget implications.

Our newsletter, the **Woodlawn Messenger** (edited by Bob Lindsay) was produced twice this past year, by a dedicated staff, and circulated electronically (complete with color pictures) and in a print version (b/w pictures only - sorry!) This is one of the more traditional ways of getting information around, and good info it has been! Thanks to this group for their excellent work.

The **WUC Website** continues to be a significant contact/info medium not only with the congregation but with the wider world! Lots of our 'snowbirds' and even former members keep in touch through the website and have access to at least the sermons from most of our services. Our capable webmaster, Beth Udby, has revamped aspects of the site, updated it on a regular basis, and continues to make it very useful and attractive. Visit it often and give us your feedback and suggestions!

Respectfully submitted,
Don Hill and Beth Udby, Co-chairs

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL TEAM

Your M&P Team has the following members: Art Lacey, Katherine MacPherson, Stewart Sampson, Sandy Withers, Tanya Matthews and Maarten Kramers (Chair). Tanya Matthews has left the team with regret after serving two years. However, we have been fortunate to add Beverly Wicks. The team meets monthly except during the summer. Our team should have seven members. We now have six and are looking for someone with an interest in human resources, risk management and policy procedure development. The term of a team member is usually 3-4 years.

The team's duties are: to provide a consultative and supportive role for staff of Woodlawn United Church and for members and adherents of the congregation; to review working conditions and remuneration for the staff; to oversee relationship of the staff of Woodlawn United Church to members of the congregation and others; to oversee relationship between and among staff members with respect to their responsibilities and authority; to oversee continuing education of staff members; to conduct and review annually the effectiveness of staff members as they relate to the mission of Woodlawn United Church; to review regularly the responsibilities of staff members and revise job descriptions when required or requested; to confirm a police record check is on file every three years.

During the past year, your team has been developing an Occupational Health and Safety Policy for staff members of our church. We also sponsor a staff luncheon prior to our busy Christmas Season. We work in the background to provide the necessary support to staff members of Woodlawn United Church and each committee member is paired with a staff person as a direct contact.

Respectfully submitted,
Maarten Kramers - Chair.

PROGRAM TEAM

Under the new Governance Model that is now in place at Woodlawn, one of the seven components of the model is the Program Team. The Program Team Chair is responsible for the oversight, development and support of the activities that express our mission and ministry in Worship, Christian Development and Outreach and Evangelism. In addition to these responsibilities, the Chair works in conjunction with the music program, UCW and UCM but only in a limited way as the main focus is those first three areas noted above.

In this past year there was an attempt to have two co-chairs for Program and for the better part of the year this was in place. In the New Year, 2010 there will be two co-chairs for the Program Team, as the responsibilities are more focused now than in the beginning. The co-chairs will help each of the committees to develop the goals and objectives for the year and provide support for the various activities that will be taking place.

One of the important responsibilities of the co-chair of Program is to liaise with the Ministry Staff periodically in the areas of Worship, Christian Development and Outreach and Evangelism in order to ensure that everyone is on the same page and working on the same goals and objectives. As well, a co-chair attends the committee meetings of Worship, Christian Development and Outreach and Evangelism during the year and reports back to the Executive Council on the programs, activities and issues that have been presented at these meetings. This is extremely important as the Executive Council operates as a governing body to ensure the smooth operation of the church and each chair or co-chair of the seven teams within the Governance Model is responsible to report to Council on a monthly basis.

The Program Team in 2009 was very busy as the three committees were extremely active and congratulations are in order to the three chairs of these committees (Dwight Perkins of Worship, Elizabeth Heatley of Christian Development and Jane Cushing of the Outreach and Evangelism) for the splendid work that they have done. During 2009, the Worship and the Christian Development Committees welcomed the new Director of Music, John Lindsay-Botten and our Youth/Sunday School Minister, Shannon MacLean. Both have added tremendous leadership to these programs. The Outreach and Evangelism committee is one of the most active groups in our church as they have to deal with issues of poverty, the Food Bank, Christmas programs, breakfast programs, racism, and special projects to help the needy.

Each of these committees has to work within the guidelines and budgets that have been allocated to them and each member is important to the effectiveness of the committee and we thank them for their dedication and continued support.

Thank you,
Murdock Morrison, Chairs of the Program Team

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The CD Committee was very active this year, especially since the fall when our new Youth Minister, Shannon MacLean, joined our staff. Shannon attends meetings of the CD Cte. and provides support and assistance on all topics related to the Sunday School and youth programs.

Looking back to Jan. - June of 2009, we want to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by Krista Jupp as Sunday School coordinator and Sarah Sampson as Youth Group leader. They stepped in at a time of great need and carried out their responsibilities in a remarkable way. Our sincere thanks and those of the congregation go to them.

Among the highlights of the 2009 CD program were:

- Religion and Life classes resulting in the award of certificates to Scouts
- Martha Unit's supervision of the Nursery
- A survey by Shannon of parents using the Nursery to determine needs
- The assistance if the Sunday School with the White Gift efforts for Outreach as they took part in the Christmas Eve service.
- Plans were made to complete the painting early in 2010 of S.S. rooms still needing same
- Super Saturday events restarted under Shannon's leadership
- Youth programs continued under Shannon's leadership

- The Sunday School/Church picnic was a great success; same planned for 2010
- Shannon's participation with the Children's Time in worship services

Growth of the Sunday School and youth programs is anticipated in the new year, and more adult volunteers are hoped to become involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Heatley, Chair

CHANCEL COMMITTEE

We continue to try to make our sanctuary a welcoming place in which to worship God.

During 2009, we did our best to try and provide a pleasant environment and still match the Church's liturgical seasons.

Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve our goal by helping out on special occasions, such as decorating for Christmas. New faces are always welcome and needed when it comes to Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorating.

As you know, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain donations for the Thanksgiving service. Therefore, as in recent years, we went to the fruit and vegetable markets to purchase fresh produce, which was immediately given to the Food Bank at our Church (for which they were very thankful).

This year, we purchased two new wreaths, which were hung at the back of the sanctuary and used both angels and gold balls on the Christmas tree in order to make things look a bit more festive for our Anniversary year. Each year, we try to get some new seasonal items to add to our décor. Comments have been very favorable this year. Since this was our 125th Anniversary, I sat on the Anniversary Committee and was involved in the banner selection. Fay Gunter created the two lovely banners and antependia, which are hung as often as possible during the year. Thanks to Aruna Khan, who continues to look after the maintenance and hanging of the banners on a weekly basis. The quilts created by the Arts and Faith Committee are hung as often as possible because we feel they provide such a moving visual representation of life at Woodlawn United over the years.

If you have any suggestions or would like to assist the Chancel Committee, please contact me at 462-2261. Since I am away for an extended period in the winter, I would like to have a committee, who would be available consistently to pitch in whenever the need arises. Please consider helping us.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fulmer, Chair

DEVOTION IN MOTION

Our liturgical dance group has enjoyed another year of ministry. Meeting weekly, we have danced our questions moved our prayers and raised our hands in thanks.

In January, at the start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we processed and recessed to music and spoken word to symbolize our separation and then our uniting under the cross. On Palm Sunday, we danced "The Lord's Prayer", beautifully accompanied by Adelia Trenchard and Terry Hill. In June we danced to Neil

Young's "When God Made Me". We participated during the Presbytery service, dancing "Down to the River To Pray" accompanied by our beloved "Mitzvah" quartet.

The fall saw growth in our numbers with three new dancers and one returning dancer. Our members now span three churches: Woodlawn United, Cole Harbour-Woodside United and Grace Lutheran.

In October, we danced, "You Are Holy" at our anniversary service, to the accompaniment of our choirs and drummers. Since then, we've been preparing selections for use in the 2010.

We meet Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Feel free to try out liturgical dance. Our movements are easy to learn and we take our time committing them to memory. You are welcome!

We extend our thanks for the support of our ministers, music director, sound technicians, choirs, drummers, soloists and accompanists. Special thanks to you, the congregation, who encourage us so warmly.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicky May

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I have now completed four months as Music Director at Woodlawn, and I think that we can say it's been unexpectedly exhilarating. New songs have been introduced from More Voices such as "Called by Earth and Sky", "You Are Holy" (Hamba Nathi) and "Hope Shines as the Solitary Star", and used more than once, as well as the new offering response "What Can I Do?". I have heard plenty of positive responses to the new material and with the Gospel Choir and Chancel Choir each moving in challenging directions, the anthems have been well received, too.

As we are in the 125th Anniversary year at Woodlawn, it sometimes seems contradictory to move forward and look back concurrently, but I hope that may continue to be achieved. It is my wish for 2010 that the Music offerings continue to be rich in tradition and reward for both the listeners and the gift-givers.

With Drummers United taking shape, and an intergenerational drum circle offered in the sanctuary when possible, the additional rhythms in spirit, I hope, will become infectious.

In addition to anniversary Sunday, when both choirs combined, highlights have included Remembrance Sunday, the 22nd annual Choirs and Brass concert on Dec 6th, all three Christmas Eve services, and looking forward to completing my first year in appointment.

My position is not without its challenges. I hope that together we can move harmoniously into year 126, knowing that we continue to develop and grow as Christians on our spiritual and musical journeys. As we sound together our praises to God, our glories and Hosannas, may we each ring our individual bells, yet chime together in worship, not just on Sunday, but every day of the week.

Blessings and peace,
John Lindsay-Botten

EAST DARTMOUTH CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK

We had a very busy year serving 2237 orders of approximately 40 pounds per order. In most cases, the clients picked up their own orders but we have about six people who are unable to come to us and we make a delivery to them. We also deliver a few orders in emergency situations.

We started off the year seeing a trend toward more young single people needing help. We also had an increase in single mothers with one or more children needing assistance. The number of families with children and couples remained about the same.

We found that the price of food that we had to buy each month was costing more but the donations from groups and individuals were very generous.

In the spring, the City of Lakes Barbershop Chorus presented a benefit concert which was a great success. We made \$1,390.00. We can't say thank you enough to the Chorus for doing this for us.

During the month of March, we took part in a Hunger Count for all food banks across Canada. We had 55 volunteers who worked for a total of 465 hours. We gave out approximately 6440 pounds of food during this time.

One hundred sixty-four women, 12 seniors, 3 students and 84 single people came to us for assistance. Of these people, 124 were on Social Assistance, 21 were low income, and the rest were other sources of income.

In May, the students, staff and parents of Ellenvale Junior High School collected food items and formed a human chain from their school to our door and over 3000 items were brought in. Prince Andrew High School also had a food drive for us and several boxes were brought to us. It is always so nice to see the students taking part in such a venture. The Youth Group of Stevens Road had a food drive for us, as well food contributions arising from some children having birthday parties.

The workers of City of Dartmouth Greenhouses potted 10 patio pots for our clients. The clients who took these pots home were very pleased with their gardens, which contained tomatoes, zucchinis, peppers and herbs.

In July and August, our food and funds were very low but with the generosity of all, we were able to keep our shelves stocked.

We started a "Green Bag" program and the clients have been very good at bringing these bags back. The Royal Bank in Forest Hills gave us a very generous supply of bags. We can always use more.

While we continue to have many volunteers, there is always an on going need for more hands, Drop by any Wednesday from 8:30 to 11:30, or if you can make a delivery for us on Thursdays, call and add you name to our list.

Without all the kind people who donate money, time and food the Food Bank could not continue.

Thanks
Pat Rodenhiser, CEO



Girl Guides of Canada Guides du Canada

January to December 2009

The Guiding year runs from September to June. As of September 2009, Woodlawn District consists of 3 Sparks Units, 2 Brownie Units, 1 Guide Unit, 1 Pathfinder Unit and 1 Trex (extraordinary opportunities) Unit. There are 23 Leaders and 106 girls in the District, meeting weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in both the brick church basement and the Heritage Centre.

Unit guiders provided many fun activities for the girls. Sparks activities included Christmas outreach, and many outdoor activities, such as hikes, bike rally, and litter chase. Brownies enjoyed sleepovers, guest speakers, and community service projects (food bank, mitten tree). As well both Brownie units participated in horseback riding at Boulderwood Stables. Guide activities included service projects, and the Guide "Lock- In" event at Alderney Landing. Pathfinder/Trex activities included several camps, including Quest and geocaching. They provided community service, such as gift wrapping in support of Feed Nova Scotia. After a great deal of fundraising they enjoyed camping with Scouts at ScotiaJamb in Cape Breton. One of the Pathfinders had an amazing opportunity to work with other girls her age on a service project in Ecuador.

All Units enjoyed camping together at Camp Mockingee in the spring. We also participated as a district in the Thinking Day service at Woodlawn Church and the Thinking Day event at Cole Harbour Place. All the units enjoyed various holiday parties throughout the year along with enrolment and advancement ceremonies. This past November, we held a successful District "Christmas Tea" with a fun time had by all who attended. We are looking forward to 2010, a celebration of 100 years of Guiding in Canada.

Yours in Guiding,

Kim Hermanson and Kelly Currie, Woodlawn District Co-Commissioners
Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada

1st WOODLAWN SCOUT GROUP

For the Scouting community at Woodlawn United Church, 2009 was another rewarding year. We have completed our 55th year of Scouting at Woodlawn United Church and continue to provide top quality programs to youth that span the ages of 5 to 26 years. 1st Woodlawn Scout Group remains to have the single largest youth program and covers the broadest age group in the entire Dartmouth Region.

We, like all groups are not without our challenges. We still have an on-going search for a volunteer to fill the position of Group Commissioner.

We have many great accomplishments to be proud of and a committed team of leaders who continue to provide their experience, skills and leadership to youth.

As of 31 Dec 2009, we had 99 Youth, 29 Leaders, and 3 Group Committee members registered with Scouts Canada. Below I have summarized by section, some of the activities and accomplishments.

Colony:

- "A" & "B" Colonies have the largest section with 43 youth.
- Participated in the Popcorn Campaign, Scoutrees at Camp Harris and Apple Day.
- Held a sleepover at the Heritage Center.
- Both Colonies attended Beaveree, White Tail Camp, Remembrance Day Parade and Scout Guide Week activities.
- Environmental focus was the participation in The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Morash Park and Scoutrees 2009.
- Guest Speakers from HRM Police/Canine Division, Search and Rescue, Dept of National Defence and NS Bike Week visited with the Beavers and shared important information about their place in the community.
- One Leader received their WB II Colony - Gilwell recognition and three leaders from 1st Woodlawn participated as part of the training team.
- 19 youth, 5 leaders and 2 parents took part in "A Day on the Train" where we travelled from Halifax to Truro and back on Via Rail.

- 4 Colony Leaders from 1st Woodlawn were the training team for Woodbadge I - Colony Section Specific Training Course held at Camp Harris in Nov'09 where 21 leaders from Halifax and Dartmouth Regions attended and received recognition.

Pack: No report provided.

Troop:

1st Woodlawn Troop had a very busy and exciting year.

- One youth received the Chief Scout Award.
- Youth took part in a National Photographic Contest where two youth were awarded prizes.
- Scouts ushered at the Carol Service
- Did a very successful Coat Check at the Holiday Inn.
- Attended and took part in a March Break Camp, Fantasy Camp, Klondike Derby, Annual Church Parade, and BP Woodsman
- Were active in fundraisers such as Pop Corn Sales, and Pancake Supper and Apple Day.
- 1st Woodlawn Scout Troop attended a Safe Boating course with members of 1st Lawrencetown Scout Troop. 30 youth passed
- Troop participated in Remembrance Day Parade, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Morash Park and Camp Harris 50th Anniversary Celebrations.
- Highlight meeting was "Table Manners" where the Scouts planned, cooked, and served dinner for their parents. Gifts were handmade. The guest speaker was Marylou Harnish and the Scouts collected pennies for "The Gambia".

Venturers: No report provided.

Rovers: No report provided.

So, as you can see, we had a very busy year. We continue to meet in the Church Hall and Heritage Center on a weekly basis

All in all, we feel very blessed that we have had yet another successful year. Having Woodlawn United Church as our sponsor for the 55th year, has allowed us the joy of continuing growth, development and fellowship. Through all of life's challenges, we want to say, "Thank you to the congregation and ministry for everything you have done! "

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Shea, 1st Woodlawn Scout Group
Representative to CD Committee

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee members are Evelyn Webber, Linda Sinclair, Tom Rogers, David MacKenzie, Karen Skinner, Connie Estabrook, Gordon Joycey (Treasurer), Jane Cushing with the assistance of Murdock Morrison and Rev. Phillip Kennedy when available. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of most months and we receive reports on activities of the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank, the Breakfast Program Ian Forsyth School, Feeding Others of Dartmouth and the Face of Poverty Consultation as well as outreach programs.

This past year, we have struggled with defining our Vision and Mandate statements. At the Rally Day in September, we asked for input from the congregation about the work they want to see the Outreach Committee carry out. We are still open to suggestions about projects which are important to the members of Woodlawn United Church. We have posted matters of concern (KAIROS funding cuts, the Conference on Climate

Change, Sleeping Children Around the World, etc.) to the whole church on the website and encourage members to check the website regularly. A bulletin board in the church hall advertises outreach concerns in the neighbourhood of Woodlawn United church.

Realizing that there was considerable money in various funds of the Outreach budget, we discussed ways of being good stewards by distributing the money to agencies and charities in need. We invited Kathleen Jennex, executive director of Coverdale Center, to speak to the group. The Center provides services and programs for women and female youth who are experiencing the justice system. Poverty, addictions, and mental health issues are responsible for many of the problems experienced by their clients. David Sparks, who is with the Dr. Martin Luther King project tackling the problems of youth violence, was invited to be a Minute Person at the March 22 church service. As a result of this information, \$500.00 was donated to Coverdale Center and a second donation of \$150.00 was made to the Dr. Martin Luther King project. We also supported the 10th annual March 21 Anti-Racism service at Rockingham United Church by providing 30 dozen cookies for the reception.

The fact that many toiletry items are being discarded at security checks at the airport was investigated in hopes that we could direct these items to people who need them, but found that were liability concerns which prevent them from being used. Prior to the June, 2009 provincial election, we contacted candidates to voice our concern about the lack of decent low cost housing in East Dartmouth and received replies from four of the candidates. From the Face of Poverty Consultation reports, we were made aware of the Nova Scotia government's Poverty Reduction Strategy being formulated by the working group, and look forward to some of the recommendations being put into action in the near future.

The Christmas White Gift programs took up most of our energy from September to December 16 when the gifts and groceries were delivered to the families. The Sleeping Children Around the World gift card program was offered again, the Mitten Tree was filled with warm mitts, gloves, hats and scarves. In addition to Shoe Boxes, this year we had purchased clear plastic back packs (300 for 20 cents each!) to be filled with useful small gifts for children, women and men. Twenty- eight families were provided with gifts, donated by UCW Units, the Gospel Choir, and the Key Club of Prince Andrew High School and by congregation members or purchased by volunteers with White Gift funds. They also received groceries and gift cards from grocery stores so they could purchase their own turkey, ham, fish or beef for Christmas. There was a bit of disappointment that many of our "Families" were single people this year, with few children for whom to provide Christmas, but the singles were grateful for the attention to their needs. We are in awe of the generous response of the congregation at this time of the year, Thank you, all!

In the name of Woodlawn United church, the Outreach committee was able to make generous donations to many agencies this year, as we had sufficient funds in our various budgets. We donated \$300.00 to FOOD, \$500.00 to Camp Kidston, subscribed for 5 copies of StreetFeat newspaper, donated to the Coffee House held at Woodlawn United each month and to the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank. In addition, we were able to donate \$1000.00 to each of Phoenix Youth Programs, the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Boys and Girls Club of East Dartmouth, Edwards and Brockwell Houses (Regional Independent Students Assoc.), Metro Non-Profit Housing, Brunswick Street Mission, Women in Supported Housing at the YWCA, Among Friends Social Club of the Canadian Mental Health Assoc., the Stephen Lewis Foundation and to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada for flood relief in El Salvador.

Thank you to each member of the Outreach Committee for your ideas, your hands-on work and your efforts to make a difference in the lives of many. Thank you to the members of Woodlawn United Church for sharing your gifts with the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Cushing, Chair

WOODLAWN UNITED CHURCH MEN

Our mandate is to provide opportunity for fellowship, entertainment and spiritual growth for men of Woodlawn while providing financial assistance to others.

The monthly breakfast gatherings at the Dartmouth Seniors Center continued to attract many men from our congregation as well as from several other congregations and denominations. Don Hill, Bob Lindsay and Ralph Sams continue to provide the leadership for this event which is in its 27th year. Our speakers have been diverse, colourful and always interesting. As has been our custom for several years, Woodlawn Men hosted the December breakfast. Pastor Les Somers of StoneRidge Fellowship Church in Lr. Sackville gave an inspiring and challenging message; Don Hill led the Carol singing; Stephen Pace tickled the ivories and Keith Brumwell sang two beautiful solos. We raised our collective voices singing carols and our kitchen staff provided a first class breakfast.

Don and Bob continue to be involved in men's work at the Conference level. They are currently working on the 2010 UCM Rally which will be held in Amherst on May 01. Woodlawn men are encouraged to watch for details of this event and give prayerful thought to attending.

We were honoured to be asked to provide a chowder luncheon for the AGM of the Halifax Presbyterial United Church Women in February. With Chef Carl, in the kitchen success was guaranteed. We received many compliments.

Fundraising this year consisted of four events; the UCW chowder, a Lenten fish chowder luncheon, the annual Dessert Party with the City of Lakes Barbershop Chorus and the December men's breakfast. From these activities we raised and spent as follows:

| Income | | Disbursements | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| UCW Chowder | 400.90 | | |
| Fish Chowder | 1484.00 | E.D.C.Food Bank | 700.00 |
| Barbershop Cabaret | 654.50 | Woodlawn Gen. Fund | 400.00 |
| Men's Breakfast | 278.60 | Accessibility Fund | 1,718.00 |
| Totals | 2818.00 | | 2818.00 |
| Bal.Dec. 31, 2009 | 1,017.60 | Dec. 31, 2008 | 1017.60 |

Our sincere thanks to those who baked, worked at chowders, purchased tickets or helped in any way. Our first fundraising activity in 2010 will be a chowder luncheon on Mar. 26. We welcome men to any of our activities. If you require further information or would like to chat, please call Don @ 434-2482 or Ralph @ 434-7786.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams, Secretary / Treasurer

UCW REPORT

To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

The above statement serves as the Purpose for all UCW members across this great United Church of ours and is recited at every formal gathering. It recognizes everything that we strive to achieve at the local, presbyterial, conference and national level.

This is the end of the first year of our term as Co-Presidents of this vibrant Woodlawn UCW - a year which has passed so quickly that it has left us breathless. We began the year in fear and trepidation but soon found that with the cheerful support of our Secretary, Sheila Richardson, the wise counsel of our Past Presidents, Teri Giannou and Pam Mountan, and the understanding of all the members of the executive, we were able to survive the year relatively unscathed.

As co-presidents, we have chaired the monthly Executive meetings, attended Presbyterial meetings and Rallies, and represented UCW on Church Council and the Recruitment Cte. Immediately upon settling into this position, we were charged with the organization of the Presbyterial AGM, which was held on Feb. 21st here at Woodlawn. With the assistance of the Woodlawn UC Men, who prepared, served and cleaned up following a delicious chowder luncheon, we were free to carry out the many other duties required. Teri Giannou and Dorothy Lindsay helped us organize all other elements of the day-long event, including Worship and Communion, which was presided over by Rev. Valerie. The highly successful meeting also included the election and installation of Presbyterial Officers, two of whom are from Woodlawn; Dorothy Lindsay (President) and Alanna Mason (Secretary). The Conference UCW President, Letha Mowatt, was our guest for the day.

Other areas organized through the Exec. were:

- (A) Spring Fling: Using the Theme "*New Life*", we brought in items for baby layettes, which were given to Brunswick St. Mission and the IWK. Twenty-seven complete layettes and many other larger baby items were donated and much appreciated by these two organizations
- (B) Cookies: 234-doz. cookies were prepared and delivered to Berwick Camp as Woodlawn's donation to the Halifax Presbyterial undertaking.
- (C) F.O.O.D.: large casseroles to feed the clients of Margaret's House during July and August were prepared, cooked and delivered. Similarly, 8 pies were donated each time for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This was in addition to those meals prepared and delivered by the Units on a monthly rotation.
- (D) Presbytery Dinner: A beautifully presented and delicious dinner was held for Presbyters and guests at their June meeting, where Wyman Benjamin, from Woodlawn, was installed as Presbytery Chair.
- (E) Thankoffering Service: Once again, the Stewardship Committee organized an outstanding service, the theme of which was "We Plant our Seeds with Love and Care". The guest speaker was Rev. Ian MacLean (brother of Sandy) - a retired UC minister now living in PEI. The Thankoffering was shared among the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank, the Woodlawn Youth Program and Camp Abegweit (the PEI Presbytery Camp, as selected by the guest speaker).
- (F) CRA Presentation: Wendy Fitch, of the Administration and Management Team, was invited to the recent Executive meeting to explain the changes in CRA regulations that could have an effect on our practices.
- (G) *COME VISIT THE STABLE*: This new venture, a display of Nativities, took place on Dec. 13th with Mary Osborne as chair of a small committee of the Executive. This exciting 125th Anniversary Project saw 45 Nativities displayed to the delight of the more than 200 congregational members who attended.

This is just a brief look at some of the efforts of the Executive. The following will show some of the work of all Portfolios and Units, illustrating the amazing contributions made by UCW this past year:

- presented candles to the parents of 14 babies/ children baptized in 2009 and invitations to join a UCW were given to the mothers.
- maintained and operated the Dun-Gen used clothing store which raised \$3,816.87 while providing a worthwhile service for the Community. In addition, coats, hats and scarves have been donated to Margaret's House and the N.S. Hospital when the need arose.
- cut over 800 lbs. of rags which were sold to local organizations for a profit of \$547
- prepared and served 2 Fish Chowders during Lent, for a profit of \$3530.50. In addition we assisted the UCM and the Accessibility Committee with their Fish Chowder Projects Luncheons.

- raised funds from Dessert Socials and the sale of a Christmas CD Cookbook to have the walls and ceiling of the Church Hall painted. (Marion MacDonald Unit)
- organized and carried out the annual Turkey Dinner with tremendous help from numerous people from the congregation. This project realized \$5,444.62.
- Tabitha Unit organized the ever-popular Craft Extravaganza which netted \$1,300.
- raised funds in various ways within the units to provide toys, books, clothing and dinners for many families in need at Christmas; gifts to the Mental Health Christmas Party; F.O.O.D.; and monetary donations to Camp Kidston (from Perennial Sale); Food Bank; purchased shingles for the Heritage Centre.

At our Christmas Pot Luck and AGM we were in the wonderful position of being able to have surplus money when all of our responsibilities had been met by our ever-so-diligent, capable and pleasant Treasurer, Kay Inkpen. These funds were directed to the following:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|
| Accessibility Fund | \$6,500 | ED Food Bank | \$500 |
| Benevolent Fund | \$500 | TCU (DGH) | \$100 |
| Camp Kidston | \$600 | Hospice | \$200 |
| Church General Account | \$1,000* | <u>Berwick Camp</u> | <u>500</u> |
| (* over and above budgeted \$5000) | | for a total of | \$9,900 |

While the above highlights the many fund-raising activities of UCW, our members also generously give of their time, talents and treasures when they participate in the following:

- collecting magazines for Seniors' Homes, greeting cards for local Day-Care Centres, stamps, eyeglasses and Campbell Soup Labels for local Service Clubs.
- collecting toiletry items, towels and other necessities for such shelters as Rotary, Edwards, Bryony, Adsum, Phoenix and SHYM.
- knitting afghans for cancer patients. (Farquharson Unit)
- cleaning out the Nursery and staffing it on Sunday mornings. (Martha Unit)
- donating pennies to the Fellowship of the *Least Coin* and presenting them at the Ingathering Service in October.

A new project this year has been the creation of Prayer Shawls by women of the Naomi Unit who willingly donated the wool and the time to make them for those who are ill, suffering grief or are experiencing loneliness. The first shawls were blessed at the Thankoffering Service in October and then presented to several appreciative recipients. Naomi Unit also donated money to purchase more yarn which is presently being worked into shawls. Several other women have joined us and the next blessing will take place on Jan. 24th during morning worship. Since the project is expanding to become a new ministry of Woodlawn, it will now be under the umbrella of the Pastoral Care Ministry.

Unfortunately, one of our largest tasks this past year has been to provide Funeral receptions for the many people who have passed away this year (21 from Jan1-Dec.31). We are indeed indebted to the many ladies of the congregation who help contribute food, the husbands who help us with setting up and cleaning up and Jamie Lacey and Bill Parker who do such an admirable job with the dish washer. We make a special effort to provide as comfortable an ambience as possible for those going through such a difficult time.

However, UCW is not just about work and projects, exciting as they may be. Rather it is also about simply "being" with one another in times good times and bad, to share a laugh or shed a tear, to study and discuss theological or social issues, or just "be" together. We fed our minds with programs on such social justice issues as poverty, homelessness and anti-racism, both at home and abroad; entered into a study on "The Women of the Bible"; learned of life in such places as The Gambia and Bosnia and gained insight into the workings of the Canadian Cancer Society and retirement residences such as Parkland-on-the-Lakes. We fed our souls with regular Devotions at meetings; attending worship at the World Day of Prayer and In-Gathering Services; praying together at meetings and through our prayer chains, studying the New Creed and singing together the new hymns from More Voices. We nurtured our bodies by learning how to become more active; eat a balanced diet; have fun times of games; regular outings to movies, dinners and in one case, a trip to explore Tancook Island.

A verse from 1 Corinthians 12: 26 is a good illustration of who we are as Women of the United Church. *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.* During 2009, we were all suffered the loss of six of our members; Eva Staples, Leah Trider, Hope Dunbar, Greta Cross, Ann Miller and Mary Moore. In addition, we learned of the passing of Agnes Parker, a former member who had moved to the West Coast several years ago. All of these women were dedicated UCW members and we are grateful for all that they have given to the work of the church in so many ways. They are truly missed.

However, we all *rejoiced* with three of our members: Nell Mallett, Nancy Thompson and Norma Higgins, as they were honoured with Life Memberships for the outstanding work they have done in the church and the community over a period of many years. We also *rejoiced* with the Naomi Unit as they initiated the Prayer Shawl Ministry; with the *Come Visit the Stable* Committee as they ventured into new territory, and as well, many of us *rejoiced* with Mary Matheson (Naomi Unit) and her daughter Glenda McCormick (Martha Unit) who recently carried the Olympic Torch during its journey through Dartmouth.

We *rejoice* with all members of Woodlawn UCW as they continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this time and place.

Respectfully submitted,
Vivian Hill and Dorothy Sams, Co-Presidents

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2009

The Worship Committee is comprised of Ken Brown (Communion Coordinator), Betty Perkins (Baptism Coordinator), Dodie Covert (Choir Liaison), Peter Woods (Communications Liaison), Darrell Taylor, Elizabeth Harrison (Lay Reader Coordinator), Vern Clarke, Carol Fulmer (Chancel Cte. Coordinator) John Lindsay-Botten (Music Director), Rev. Phillip Kennedy and Rev. Valerie Kennedy. The committee provides feedback and support to our ministry team, which takes the lead role in planning our worship services as well as leading them.

A sincere 'thank you' is extended to all members of the committee for their efforts in the fulfilling their various roles. Thank you, as well, to all those who assisted the Worship Committee throughout the year by ushering, reading scripture, preparing and serving communion, and enhancing the chancel and sanctuary for worship.

In 2009, Terry Hill, Music Director, retired after many years of dedicated service. A search team of Ken Brown, Lisa Clark, Sheila Richardson, Jerry Jackson, Dorothy Lindsay, Lisa Clarke, Adelia (Trenchard) Holloway, and Gillian Dalziel conducted a search for a new Music Director, for which we thank them. Their efforts resulted in John Lindsay-Botten joining our staff as Music Director, which is a part-time role.

The Worship Committee also arranged for supply ministers and music leaders throughout the year.

Bulletin Dedication: In 2009, the Worship Committee implemented a policy regarding the Dedication of a Bulletin which had been approved the previous November by the committee. This program proved very successful since that introduction, as it provides members of the congregation the opportunity to memorialize loved ones and friends in a meaningful way. Each dedication is highlighted in the Sunday bulletin as a special recognition of an individual(s) and, in so doing, provides the congregation with an awareness of the affection in which they are held. The cost to dedicate a bulletin is \$40. In 2009, there were 30 bulletin dedications. The Worship Committee is grateful to the congregation for their support of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Perkins (Chair)

STEWARDSHIP & COMMUNITY LIFE TEAM REPORT

It is hard to believe that another year has quickly passed and we are writing another annual report for our team. We have expanded our Team this past year to include the Recruitment Committee and the 125th Anniversary Team and we look forward to further revisions of the our Committee in order to develop what we have named Woodlawn United's Community of Care.

We are so thankful that we have been blessed again this past year with so many individuals who have worked daily to do God's Ministry here at Woodlawn. Without all these people and their efforts what we achieved as a team would not have been possible.

Many thanks go to the following Chairs & their Committees : Bob Watt (Membership); Bea Boutilier (Pastoral Care); Team members: Ruth Boutilier, Andrew Higdon, Don Hill, Vivian Hill, Betty Jardine, Isobel Jones, Doris Lockhart, Joan MacLeod, Janet Major, Bertha Nichols, Mary Osborne, Marie Vaughan, Olvia Vincent, Carol White, Maureen Woods, Rev. Valerie Kennedy. Myrna Nauss, Laura Jean Williamson, & Pam Mountain-Greeter Co-ordinators; Shirley Zwicker-Fellowship Coffee time (after church service); Ernie Nickerson-Chair Recruitment Committee; Shirley MacLeod-Representative from Stewardship & Community Life Team on Recruitment Committee; Mary Osborne-Mission & Service minute person coordinator; & Kay Inkpen (Funeral Coordinator) Committee members: Myrna Morash & Mary Osborne .

The following is a summarization of what has been accomplished in the various portfolios during the past year:

Baptisms & Confirmation:

During 2009 there were 14 Baptisms: William Terrance Avalon Barro Ralph, Leela Grace Curlett, Sophia Patricia Lohnes, Caroline Jane Hilton, Nadia Claire Skelton, Ivan Carter Skelton, Jocelyn Louisa Rose Carlson, James Owen Fowler, Chloe Margaret Grace Dagnall, Ramona Violet Lundrigan, Kara Ann Jagoe, Maxwell William Mervyn Jonah Wagner, Christos Jeffrey Giannou and Chase Phillip Brian.

We are very pleased to welcome into our Membership by Youth Confirmation: James Forbes-Currie, Jessica Lowe, and Olivia Wiegert.

We are very pleased to welcome into our Membership by Adult Confirmation: Jeff Giannou, Itzel Gonzales & Arron Wight.

Reaffirmation of vows: Bonnie Christopher

Communion

April 12 - Easter- 2 services with 275 Communicants; May 24- 280 Communicants; October 4- World Wide Communion- 290 Communicants; December 20- 310 Communicants; December 24- 280 Communicants as well.

Membership-Bob Watt

During 2009, we added 21 households to our congregational roll for a year end count of 688 households (1637 individuals). Thanks to all who sent in their census forms so we could update the records. If you have not done so, it is not too late, as this is an ongoing process. Please give Bob a call if you have any changes you want to pass on. Keeping information current is so important and it is greatly appreciated.

We are very pleased to welcome into our Membership the following people by Transfer: Shannon Richardson, Carolyn Bracken, John Bracken, Christopher Fowler, Patrica Murchy, Lloyd Murchy, Carolyn Pettipas, Joyce Kerr-Smith, David Kennedy, Krista Jupp, and Stephanie Dagnall.

Funerals-Kay Inkpen

Committee members -Myrna Morash & May Osborne

There have been 24 Funerals held at Woodlawn during the past year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of these individuals. May you find comfort in the memories and love shared with your loved ones.

In June, 2009 we completed the process of establishing a Funeral Policy for Woodlawn and have been working on a few modifications.

The UCW Funeral Committee has faithfully catered to the funerals over the past year presenting a wonderful reception each time. Thank you to all who contribute to these receptions by way of food preparation and serving. We commend you all for your dedication to this important act of kindness for the families.

Thank you to the members of the choir for your musical support to the ministers and the families during the funeral/memorial services. Thank you also to the volunteer sound technicians.

Fellowship Time- Shirley Zwicker

Fellowship time following the service continues to be well attended. Thank you to all the individuals that sign up so willingly and enable us to continue this important part of our Community Building at Woodlawn. In 2009, there were over 2000 cups of coffee & tea served plus as many glasses of juice. No small task and you can help to keep this social time a part of every Sunday. If you are interested in helping with this, or haven't done it for awhile, then give Shirley a call or email and sign up.

Thank you again to Cole Harbour Tim Horton's at Forest Hills Shopping Centre who keeps on supplying us with their sweets each Sunday morning.

Marriages

The following have been married at Woodlawn during the past year:

Jason Archibald & Christine Neves , April 18

Christopher Hunter & Michelle Mountan August 1

William Eisener & Rachel Yurick August 8

Michael White & Theresa Ferris September 5

Catherine Osborne & Darry Oliver September 19

Greeter Coordinators- Laura Jean Williamson, Myrna Nauss & Pam Mountan

Thank you to Laura Jean, Myrna and Pam for organizing the greeters for each service. It is so nice to have a family or individual greeting each Sunday when you enter the church. This is an important part of our welcoming ministry and we encourage everyone to consider offering some time so we can ensure that this meaningful feeling continues to be part of every service here at Woodlawn. If you are not on the current list and would like help out with, this then please let it be known.

Pastoral Care-Bea Boutilier

Members: Ruth Boutilier, Andrew Higdon, Don Hill, Vivian Hill, Betty Jardine, Isobel Jones, Doris Lockhart, Joan MacLeod, Janet Major, Bertha Nichols, Mary Osborne, Marie Vaughan, Olivia Vincent, Carol White, Maureen Woods, Rev. Valerie Kennedy.

The Pastoral Care Team has met five times during 2009 with at least 12 or more in attendance at each meeting. This dedicated group of individuals visit our sick & shut-in members regularly in hospitals, nursing homes and private homes to bring blessings and prayers from Woodlawn. CD's of the Sunday services are delivered regularly to many of the shut-ins so they too can experience the preaching and teaching of Rev. Valerie & Rev. Phillip and maintain that connection with the Woodlawn Family. Over one hundred cards were sent to express our care and concern to those who recently came home from hospital, mourned the loss of a loved one. Cards were also sent to shut-ins who celebrated birthdays and anniversaries. In total, over 350 visits were made.

In 2009, we had a few team members resign for various reasons but were very fortunate that other individuals became involved so that the Pastoral Care Team was able to continue with this important part of God's Ministry here at Woodlawn.

Kathy & Teri have been reviewing with Rev. Valerie & Rev. Phillip ways to develop and expand many of the responsibilities of this Team in 2010. A workshop on Jan 23rd for the congregation gave more details of the structure and suggestions that are already in the preparation stages.

Thank you to all who work so faithfully in this ministry. You are truly a blessing to those who need Woodlawn's continued support in their time of need. You are a very valuable support to our Ministry Team to ensure Woodlawn's commitment to essential care for our congregation.

Recruitment Committee

The Recruitment Committee members are: Shirley MacLeod, Ross Osborne, Dorothy Sams, Art Lacey, Barry Zwicker, Don Hill, Murdock Morrison, Peter Woods, Wendy Fitch, Jan Musselman, Rev. Phillip Kennedy, Rev. Valerie Kennedy, Ernie Nickerson (Chair).

In February 2009, this Committee, consisting of Chairs (or their representatives) of the various Council Teams, was formed as a sub-committee under Stewardship & Community Life Team, and had a twofold purpose:

(a) to assist committees with recruitment where they required additional members.

(b) to assist the various teams and committees in fulfilling their mandates where structural changes may be required or advisable.

We held 12 meetings between February and the end of June and further meetings in the fall. This involved a review of lists of congregational members as known to us, with the intention of referring names to various committees for their contact purposes. However, what we came to realize was that our church database was an incomplete document. Over the years much information had been inputted as then available, but it was not as comprehensive as needed. Therefore, in order to do our job well, we felt it necessary that contact to be made with congregation in order to seek the missing information.

As a result, a "census form" was devised and circulated to the congregation in September, along with a covering letter. The resulting information has been most helpful to the Membership Clerk in filling many gaps. At year-end, 250 forms had been returned and we thank those people for their assistance in completing them. It is hoped that the remaining 400 or so will also complete and return their forms. For those needing a copy, it is available on the church website and from the Office.

In order for our ministerial staff and various volunteer committees to properly fulfill their roles, this information is of great assistance, in fact, almost vital!

Thanks are expressed to the committee members for their support during the many, many meetings held during the past year.

Sincerely,
Ernie Nickerson, Chair

Anniversary Committee

Co-Chairs: Peter & Maureen Woods

Members: Fay and Gerry Gunter, Brian Moors, Shirley MacLeod, Don and Vivian Hill, Myrna Morash, Sandy Kyte, Carol Fulmer, Bruce and Jacob Creighton, Rev. Valerie & Rev. Phillip Kennedy and Mary Osborne.

Faith Alive at 125 was the slogan that was chosen for our 125th Anniversary which got off to a roaring start during this year. The "kick off" pot luck supper was an overwhelming success with an excellent turnout and delicious food. We had a great evening of fellowship and entertainment and all who participated seemed to genuinely enjoy themselves. Rev. Lester Settle, Rev. Sandy MacLean and Lila brought words of greeting and reminisced about past events. Letters were received from many past ministers of Woodlawn and also from those who have gone on to enter the ministry from our congregation. These will be read at various times throughout the year. Anniversary Sunday was by any measure a memorable occasion and those who prepared the service deserve a well earned "thank you" from all of us. The service was very moving and full of meaning. The Rev. Dr. Andy O'Neill delivered a thought-provoking sermon based on our chosen Bible passage for the 125th Hebrews Ch: 12 vs. 1-2 (a cloud of witnesses).

The service was recorded for sound and also videotaped. Pictures will be taken throughout the year and will be put on the website.

Kim Curlett created the logo for the 125th Anniversary. That logo has been used on banners, placemats, Anniversary lapel pins, the new sign, and the bulletin that was used on Anniversary Sunday. Thanks to Fay Gunter for creating the Anniversary banners, to Ralph and Dorothy Sams for creating the new sign, to Harvey Slade refurbishing the 100th anniversary sign.

To reflect our heritage, the following colors were chosen for the banners, logo and pins. Red for Pentecost, fire, and flames, White representing Holy Spirit, and dove, and Gold for Easter, Christmas and Christ. Rev. Valerie has challenged the congregation to read the entire New Testament over the coming year as a special contribution to our celebratory year. Mary Osborne has arranged a special insert in the bulletin each week titled, "Did you Know" which tells a little about our history. The Tabitha Unit of UCW is planning a 125th Anniversary event for January 24, 2010, where 125 bag chilli lunches will be made available. Feedback on 125th Anniversary events is welcome by Peter & Maureen at mfwoods@ns.sympatico.ca or 435-0813.

Mission & Service Minute Person Coordinator-Mary Osborne

Minutes for Mission were presented, during many Sunday morning services. The presenters all did a great job and we thank them for informing the congregation about the wonderful work done by the Mission and Service Fund. If you are not already supporting the Mission and Service Fund in your weekly envelope, please consider joining those who do. Even \$1 a week would raise the amount that our Woodlawn congregation sends to help those in need in Canada and around the world.

Fall Flyers & Christmas Cards

In September, a flyer was prepared with help from Rev. Phillip, Rev. Valerie, Shannon MacLean, Donna Macumber, and Beth Udby. This flyer was hand delivered to more than 1500 households in the area surrounding the church. The flyer had a welcome page, a list of special services, programs for adults and youth as well as other interesting information. Many thanks go to Mary and Don MacMillan and their scouts and other congregation members who helped deliver these flyers.

At the end of November, we prepared 2,990 "Christmas Cards" and sent them to the postal code B2W which includes Portland Hills, Woodlawn and Russell Lake areas. This was an unaddressed mail-out which contained contact information for Woodlawn United and listed the services of the Advent and Christmas Seasons, along with Christmas Greeting to the community from Woodlawn United.

Celebration of Lay-Ministry

The first annual celebration of lay-ministry was held on April 26, 2009 with over 120 people attending. The celebration included a potluck supper as well as entertainment. Rev. Phillip welcomed all and gave a short talk on lay-ministry and Rev. Valerie said grace. Rev. Valerie Kingsbury, President of Maritime Conference, brought greetings and also gave a thought-provoking message on lay ministry interspersed with her Newfoundland humour, while several of choir members, Dodie Covert, Adelia Holloway & Lisa Clarke shared their musical talents for all to enjoy.

Thanks to all who so willingly helped with preparation, setup, and cleanup. We are intending to keep this as a tradition each spring and each year a different Council team will be assigned to look after set up, kitchen duties, etc....

This year's celebration will be held on April 18th, 2010 so mark your calendars as this is an event you won't want to miss. Lots of FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FOOD!!

Community of Care

We are currently working along with Rev. Phillip & Rev. Valerie to revise, develop and expand many of the responsibilities of the Stewardship and Community Life Team. We would like to call it, Woodlawn's Community of Care. We would like to expand the follow up to new members, for Baptisms, Marriages along with continuing to look after and support the congregation we already have, as well as renew contact with those who may have drifted away. A workshop is planned Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 in the church hall from 9 AM to 11:30AM. The purpose of the workshop is to explore how the Community of Care team will function. With God's will and our commitment to his ministry, Woodlawn's Community of Care will become a reality this year.

Thanks again to all those that have helped make the past year run so smoothly. The time and talent and countless hours of the many participants, too numerous to mention, have contributed immensely to the many activities of the Stewardship & Community Life Team. We are so appreciative for all your ministries here at Woodlawn United. All these things would not be possible without your commitment and dedication.

To Rev. Valerie and Rev. Phillip, we are extremely blessed to have your guidance throughout the year and look forward to another year filled with *Kindling, Strengthening & Renewing the Spiritual Life in Jesus Christ* here at Woodlawn.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Dean & Teri Giannou, Co-chairs

COUPLES CLUB

Couples Club has 36 couples on the membership list this year! We average about 28 people per meeting. Whatever the number, we have a great time and usually something good to eat. In January, we entertained the folks at Oakwood Terrace with a Bingo game with prizes for everyone, followed by chili at the Morashs'. The MacMillans organized an indoor Olympics night in April where we were tested by some top notch games. Our best-attended meeting was, as usual, our pot luck lobster supper in May. In June, we went bowling and then gathered at the Allen house for snacks. Actually, we were checking out the Allen's transitional kitchen! The Deans treated us to an exceptional day at their cottage in July. We relaxed, swam, boated and (of course!) had supper. A few early starters enjoyed an overnight on Friday with one of Dennis's fun campfires. In September, the Kennedys shared their lovely secluded property with us by having a cornboil and singsong around the fire. The Woods hosted a planning meeting in October followed by (you guessed it!) more food! That gathering also featured a wine-tasting opportunity (with wines made by members) and wine-trivia and auction-trivia games. The latter was looking forward to our Auction, planned for May 15, 2010. A games night was held in November where some great games were played. The competitive juices were flowing! A joyful crowd turned out in December for Christmas caroling to shut-ins. This event was surely blessed, as we got home just before the snowstorm struck!

Couples Club continues to be a wonderful place to form lasting friendships.

Funds were distributed as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Djembe drums - \$1000 | Projector for sanctuary - \$2000 |
| Speakers for choir loft - \$500 | Two cordless microphones - \$2000 |
| Camp Kidston - \$500 | Accessibility fund - \$2000 |
| Heritage Centre Fund - \$1000 (\$500 of it for Youth Room) | |

Respectfully submitted,

Barry & Shirley Zwicker (Co-Presidents)

TRUSTEES TEAM

The members of the Trustees Team are: Tom Inkpen, Malcolm Morash, Doug Eisener, Janet Perry, Myrna Morash, John McQueen, Jim Allen, Ian Stewart, Grant Warwick, Art Theuerkauf, Nancy Thompson, Gerald Brennan and Barry Zwicker.

The Trustees have two primary areas of responsibility: a) proper maintenance, protection, operations of our buildings and grounds and b) the management of the Church's investments.

During 2009, we were involved with regular maintenance of our facilities and our grounds. During the summer, we continued the renovation program within the Patterson House replacing two windows in Donna's office.

The Brick Church has had two new windows installed on the east side of the building. These are the first of an annual replacement program to provide more energy efficient and low maintenance windows.

The Heritage Center this year has had a major roofing upgrade to the west side of the building. This project was funded mainly through a fundraiser conducted by the Trustees raising approximately \$7,500.00. The old oil hot water furnace was replaced this summer/fall with a new natural gas system. We were assisted with these costs by a generous \$6,000.00 grant from HRM through their heritage fund. Through the efforts of the youth, with adult assistance, a big-clean up has greatly improved the ability to use the basement. We hope to continue this upgrade in 2010 by installing a new floor, lighting and electrical outlets.

The age and condition of our buildings means the Trustees conduct regular fix-up projects and often have to deal with water leaks, broken windows, drainage issues, sewer backups and overall grounds maintenance. We have 13 trustees with a range of responsibilities or tasks to share the workload. We have been operating in this mode for the last two years and it helps reduce meetings and focuses on getting the tasks completed.

Task groups include:

1. Kitchen and UCW liaison- Myrna Morash, Janet Perry and Nancy Thompson
2. Finance and Investments- Grant Warwick, Barry Zwicker and Art Theuerkauf
3. Plumbing and Heating- Jim Allen and John MacQueen
4. Sound and Lighting- John MacQueen and Ian Stewart
5. Landscaping and Snow Removal- Doug Eiesner and Tom Inkpen
6. Heritage Center- Gerald Brennan and Malcolm Morash
7. Security- Tom Inkpen and Malcolm Morash
8. Chair- Barry Zwicker

Sean Hanko, our custodian continues to keep our facilities clean, neat and very usable. Sean is turning out to be a very good addition to our staff at Woodlawn. Thanks very much Sean.

For 2010, we will be focusing on basement improvements for the Heritage Center and the window replacement program on the Brick Church. Our grounds need work in the area of a few parking lot improvements and new line painting. 2010 will hopefully see progress towards implementing several changes to improve overall accessibility to and within our facilities. The Trustees are looking towards working with the Accessibility Committee to implement a strategy to improve access into and around our major facilities. In particular we are very concerned about access into the Brick Church building and providing proper accessible facilities within the building. These are large projects and will require considerable funds to implement.

Our investment strategy during 2009 has been to streamline the number of investments into one consolidated fund. This has proven to be effective, given the many market losses during these recessionary times. We have been able to see gains in the area of 4.5% on our investment portfolio. In the financial reports a table outlines the various funds managed by the Trustees and their balance to the end of 2009. In December we received a \$10,000.00 bequest from the estate of Mrs. Beatrice Deacon for which we are very grateful.

The Trustees are also responsible for the insurance coverage dealing with our buildings, contents and personal liability. In 2009, we increased our liability coverage on the advice of our carrier. With respect to our contents it has been several years since an inventory has been undertaken. During 2010, we propose to undertake a video recording of each of our buildings and contents as a record in the event of fire, damage or theft. We would strongly recommend all groups and committees who store items within our facilities undertake a similar program and file the inventory with the Trustees.

The Trustees depend on a number of volunteers inside and outside the committee and we are ever grateful for the strong support received for all the efforts we undertake.

Respectfully submitted
Barry Zwicker, Chair

YOUTH TEAM REPORT

Sarah Sampson was our acting Youth Coordinator. In spite of a busy university work load, she led the Youth Group every Sunday morning.

Some highlights of the activities for the youth include:

- Confirmation Retreat at the Tatamagouche Centre on Feb. 20- 21 with Reverend Phillip and three youth in attendance.
- The youth organized a sunrise Easter Service at 7:30, with breakfast organized by Teri Giannou & Kathy Dean, with approximately 25 in attendance.
- Confirmation occurred on Easter Sunday for three youth.
- Year-end party at a miniature golf course.

In August, the congregation voted to hire Shannon MacLean as both the Youth & Sunday School Coordinator. She began organizing both groups immediately, setting up curriculum & activities for the fall including:

- The youth asked the congregation to support them in a bottle drive in September. \$89.25 was raised. The youth decided to use some of the monies to purchase two bundles of shingles for the roof campaign for the Heritage Centre.
- A \$500.00 donation was received from the Couples Club. The youth met & decided to purchase a fridge & microwave for their youth room.
- The youth lead the congregation in worship on Nov. 22nd for Children's Sunday. The theme centered on the UN Rights of the Child.

Shannon has shown real initiative as she tries to clean up the basement in the Heritage Centre so that it could be used by the youth with the plan for transformation into a games room.

- The Youth participated in the 7:00 pm family service Christmas Eve.
- A gift certificate & Christmas card were sent to our youth who are away at University. This was well received as it makes those youth feel connected to the group & the Congregation.

It has been a great asset having Shannon provide strong leadership to the youth.

Submitted by Jan Musselman, Chairperson

OTHER

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

In 2009, we saw approval in principle for an addition to the rear of our building. Those plans are now in the hands of an architect from the Stevens Group. As we close out 2009, we are looking forward to meeting with him in late January/early February to view his offering.

The Accessibility Committee and a representative each from UCW, Communications and Worship toured the new StoneRidge Fellowship church in Lr. Sackville in October. This church was designed and built by the Stevens Group. This is a very ambitious project which includes 54 acres of land. Projected cost for the complete project is over ten million dollars. Phase 1 -Youth wing, offices and recreational space and a 500-car paved parking lot are complete. Next phase is the sanctuary.

We continue to seek out small ways to make our premises more user- friendly. Trolleys were designed and built for our tables and wooden chairs. This makes their movement for cleaning and setting up much easier. Sincere thanks to the "Time Out for Crafts" folk for providing the funding for the materials. A ramp will be in place in January to make the entrance to Patterson House more accessible. These are small but important steps.

"Friends of Accessibility" continued to be active in fund-raising; two fish chowders, a concert by Paul Rumbolt, two yard sales and a concert by Clary Croft and Friends together raised just over \$7,400. Our sincere thanks go to all those who assisted in any way, and special thanks to the Rebecca Unit of UCW for assisting with one of the chowders. They were also involved in the yard sale along with Scouts and a number of individuals.

We invite your ideas, both for building and for fund-raising. Above all we invite your participation. On February 19th, we will kick off the Lenten Chowders and on February 21st we will host the Caledonian Orchestra. This is a Scottish Fiddle group out of Truro; they performed for us in 2008 and are coming back due to popular demand. In deference to those who do not drive at night we are holding this concert in the Sanctuary at 2:30 in the afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Sams, Chair
Woodlawn Accessibility Committee and "Friends of Accessibility"

CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

For 195 years, the Canadian Bible Society has continued to raise money to translate the Bible into many languages and distribute around the world for a reasonable price, helping people from all walks of life discover the Word for Life.

Although the Nova Scotia District office and its Bookstore have closed, the Nova Scotia District, and its board, continues to function and represent the work of the Society in and around Nova Scotia. Dr. Allison Trites, the District's Board of Governors' representative, can be contacted @ allison.trites@ns.sympatico.ca regarding the date and future details for Proclamation 2000. Proclamation 2000 is an annual event which has been hosted in various parts of Nova Scotia to help the people of Nova Scotia, regardless of where they live, to become more aware of the values and principles proclaimed in God's word. E cards, E Scriptures and books, etc. can be purchased online through the Society's website.

The successful "Walk Thru the Bible - Old Testament" one-day seminar event introduced in 2007 is still available, as well as the "Military Bibles", "Bike for Bibles" and "Bible a Month Club" programs. In addition, the Society has introduced the entertaining "Bible Kids" program which is located on their website. The Military Bibles program called Operation Bible, last year delivered 24,220 bibles to Canadians in uniform. You are encouraged to support each program.

The Canadian Bible Society continues to need our support when we are canvassed by mail.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul M. Walker

KIWANIS CLUB OF WOODLAWN

The association between the Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn and the Woodlawn United Church has now been ongoing for quite a number of years and is anticipated that this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future. The Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn would like to express its appreciation to the Council of Woodlawn United Church and its members for the privilege of allowing our Club to meet weekly on Thursday mornings throughout the year, in the Hall. The use of church property and furnishings for some of our fundraising and social efforts, such as our Annual Yard Sale, Tuesday's Senior Card Social, Remembrance Breakfast, and Installation Dinner is also greatly appreciated. Our support of the East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank continues to be popular with the membership.

The Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn is part of the International Kiwanis family. This family of clubs is unique, inasmuch as they operate not only in the community, but also at the Junior High, High School, and University levels. The Kiwanis Club of Woodlawn sponsors the Prince Andrew High School (PAHS) Key Club and the Woodlawn-Westphal Builders Club (Caledonia Jr High). Kiwanis clubs provide service to communities where they operate world-wide with special emphasis on young children from pre-natal stages to age five.

Our membership requirements have no restrictions regarding age or gender. We are truly a co-ed organization. We welcome all to our meetings and into membership. Please feel free to drop by some Thursday morning between the hours of 10:00 am and 11:30 am and see what we are all about and what we do in and for your community and the community at large. We will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary in April 2010.

Time-out for Seniors. Our Club provides an opportunity for seniors in our community to get together for an afternoon of bridge or cribbage. Between sixty and eighty friends gather at Woodlawn United Church Hall on Tuesday afternoons (mid- September - End of June) for fellowship and a light snack, and of course, a hand or two of cards. The games usually begin about one o'clock in the afternoon, but the set-up crew is usually there about an hour before that. So don't be shy about coming a little early and getting out of the cold. The proceeds from this event are used for a number of programs, and in particular, the Woodlawn United Church 'Outreach' program.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Devenney, President

PRESBYTERY REPORT

The Halifax Presbytery is a volunteer group of enthusiastic, energetic and extremely dedicated people who represent you, the individual congregational member. They provide care and administrative oversight on your behalf to 31 pastoral charges within its boundaries. As a bonus, representatives have the opportunity to make many wonderful new friends. The orderly and insightful functioning of your Presbytery is essential to the long-term stability and growth of the United Church of Canada and its ability to continue doing God's work in a way that will glorify His name and further His kingdom.

Vivian Hill, Dorothy Lindsay, Wyman Benjamin and Ross Osborne are the four elected representatives from Woodlawn to Halifax Presbytery. The ministry staff of the Rev.'s Valerie and Phillip Kennedy and Shannon MacLean are also members of and responsible to Presbytery, by virtue of their professional roles. Rev. Phillip, Wyman and Dorothy are also part of the Presbytery Executive. Others assisting in the work of Presbytery from WUC by invitation as members-at-large are: Ernie Nickerson (Church Extension Board and GET) and Ray DeRoche (Finance and Planning and Church Extension Board).

During 2009, the Full Court met 6 times: Jan. 13th - Port Wallis United, Dartmouth; March 3rd - Fairview United, Halifax; May 12th - St. Luke's United, Tantallon; June 16^h - Woodlawn United, Dartmouth; Sept. 8th - Riverview United, Elmsdale; and Nov. 10th, St. John's United, Fall River. Executive meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Edgewood/Oxford UC, Halifax. The Full Court meetings follow the format of

gathering over a supper meal catered by the host church, followed by worship led by the Ministers and Presbytery Reps. of that church. The Christ Candle is lighted, the meeting constituted by the Chair, and Pastoral concerns and joys are lifted up during the Prayers of the People, usually led by the Presbytery Chaplain, Rev. Stew Clarke. Joyce Wylie of St James United served as Chair of Presbytery until June 2009, when Woodlawn's own Wyman Benjamin was installed as Chair for a two-year term.

Much of the work of the Presbytery is done by its committees. Presbytery members are expected to serve on at least one of the nine Committees, all of which report back to the Full Court on a regular basis. A summary of their work over the past year follows.

Nominating Committee: (Vivian Hill) This Committee seeks out personnel and nominates members to serve on all Presbytery committees, Ecumenical and other Boards and some Conference Committees. This year has been more difficult than usual to find people to replace those who are finishing their terms, but the Committee continued to plod on, always praying that the Holy Spirit would move through the Presbytery in such a way that delegates would respond to the call. Also, a replacement had to be found for the Secretary of Presbytery, Elaine Gray, who had served faithfully in this capacity for 7 years. It is hoped that this position will be filled before the March meeting.

Christian Life and Growth: (Vivian Hill and Dorothy Lindsay, until May) This Committee's purpose is to be involved in the support, encouragement and organization of Christian Life and Witness at all stages of living. During the past year this Committee has:

- Received and reviewed applications for Intermediates and Youth Forum Delegates to Maritime Conference in May 2009. Eleven local youth applied and were recommended to attend Intermediates and 18 to Youth Forum. CLG financially supported them by paying their registration fee (\$50 each) amounting to \$1,450 from its annual budget.
- Because this was a General Council Year, CLG recommended Victoria MacDonald to represent Halifax Presbytery at GC 40's Youth Forum, with Laura Bartlett named as the alternate. (NB. Laura was elected from the floor of Maritime Conference to attend as a Youth Delegate, paving the way for both young ladies to attend.)

Education and Students: (Dan Wellwood/ Rev. Heather Fraser, Co-Chairs) This Committee is responsible for the oversight of Inquirers and Candidates for Ministry, offering to each guidance and ongoing support. During this past year, this committee has:

- Confirmed the status of Kevin Parks and Janice Frame as candidates for Ordered Ministry.
- Established Discernment Committees for Brian Curtis, Karen Ross, April Sherman, Stephen Cochrane and David Campbell, the latter through Bedford United on behalf of Wesley Methodist Church, Bermuda.
- Recommended Rosemary Godin, Christine Johnson, Wendy Kean and Tara Ann Wilson for Ordination at Maritime Conference in May, 2009. As well, Annika Sangster was recommended to be Commissioned as a Diaconal Minister.
- This Committee also led us through a report entitled "A Pathway to Candidacy", outlining the proposed changes to the Call, Discernment, Education Process and Internship (for those candidates seeking Ordered Ministry). Several proposals which arose from this major Report were debated at length, ultimately passed and sent on to Conference for concurrence so that they could be debated there and hopefully sent on to General Council.
- In addition to the proposals put forward by the E&S Committee, another was presented, debated and sent on to Conference from the Dal Campus Ministry Committee that the 40th General Council re-establish National Funding for Campus Ministry.

Gospel, Ecumenism and Theology: (Rev. Phillip Kennedy, Chair) This Committee is completing a resource for workshops on the theme of "Church Transformation"- helping people think about different models of the church. They have filmed it, given it an introduction and soon it will be a video resource packet for congregations across the country. It is currently at the national level being edited and produced.

- A major presentation on the document *Called to be the Church* was presented in preparation for the 40th General Council in Kelowna, B.C. Commissioners elected to GC40 were:
Rev. Russell Daye and Chris Binns. *Rev. Ross Bartlett was elected from the floor of Conference and later

nominated as a candidate for Moderator from the floor of GC in Kelowna.

- This committee has also responded to Halifax Presbytery's request to respond to the H1N1 flu concern by reflecting on fear and trying to understand "passing the peace" theologically. Recommendations for alternative ways were exchanged.

- In the near future, they hope to take on an "interfaith project", one which has to do with Israel, Palestine and building partnerships.

Pastoral Relations Committee: (Rev. Valerie Kennedy and Wyman Benjamin, until June)

This is one of the more stressful and busy committees of Presbytery. They meet, on average, eight times a year {more if warranted}. However, every member of this committee commits to having responsibilities that require more time and extra meetings. Due to the sensitive nature of their work almost everything that they do and discuss is done in care, compassion and confidence. It is a committee filled with excellent people who care. Unfortunately, there are times when clergy and congregations find themselves in difficult times and need help. They are the committee that deals with this - whether that is with ministers, other personnel and congregations and/or relationship difficulties between congregations and ministers. These are very sensitive matters and must be dealt with in a timely manner and with great care.

They also are responsible for JNAC {Joint Needs Assessment Committee} and JSC {Joint Search Committees}. These often require two members from the PRC. Rev. Valerie served on the Crossroads Pastoral Charge JSC last year and now is the lead on the JSC for Brunswick Street United Church. She also attended Conference Settlement Committee in Sackville on behalf of the PRC. This is another huge responsibility. They met for three days of concentrated discernment of where to place the newly ordained ministers in our Conference. They are also in charge of the Covenanting Services, which this past year, took place as follows:

January 18th, Rev. Heather Fraser, Fairview United Church.

April 19th, Rev. Beth Brehaut, Elmsdale Pastoral Charge.

Dec. 4th, Rev. Keltie vanBinsbergin, Sambro-Jollimore Pastoral Charge.

Pastoral Oversight Committee: The main focus of this committee is to carry out Triennial Visits to Pastoral Charges and present follow-up reports. Each year, one-third of the 31 Pastoral Charges are visited, which is a major piece of work for this committee. In the fall, Woodlawn was one of the churches visited by a very diligent team of Presbyters.

- NOTE: This Committee has requested that all Congregational Annual Reports be submitted annually, rather than only when a Triennial Visit takes place.

- This Committee has also been working with Fairview United to complete the last stages of a New Governance model and it has been approved by Presbytery.

Finance & Planning: (Ross Osborne) - The Chair of the Finance & Planning Committee is Harley Grimmer.

Meetings were held three times during the year with emphasis on the following:

- Prepared the 2009 Presbytery budget - \$147,886.84.
- No loan applications were received this year.
- Concurred with the application sent by St. John's United, Halifax, to the National Congregational Development Fund in the amount of \$500,000.
- 2009 Mission Support was in the amount of \$66,425. distributed as follows:
 - \$55,525. to four outreach ministries.
 - \$10,900. to Chaplaincies.
- Stewardship allocations were forwarded to pastoral charges.
- Approved distribution from the New Church Development Fund as follows:
 - Port Wallis United received \$8,710.98
 - Cole Harbour-Woodside received \$6,178.07
 - Riverview-Elmsdale received \$2,101.95
- Purchased a new laptop computer for the Presbytery office.

Church Extension Board: (Ross Osborne) The AGM of the Extension Board was held in March of 2009. As no loan applications were received during 2009, no further meetings were held. As of February 11, 2009, the capital amount held is \$726,727.82

Camp Kidston: Camp Kidston Memorial Camp is situated on a 500-acre site on Long Lake. This provides for excellent supervised swimming and canoeing. A very well-organized PowerPoint presentation was prepared and presented by Chris Riehl (Chair, from Woodlawn!) and John Connely, a Kidston Board member, which highlighted the importance as well as the significant hurdles experienced in trying to maintain such a valuable asset to the Presbytery. They stressed the need for representatives to the Board and/or its committees as well as volunteer chaplains and first-aiders. As well, they felt the need for pastoral charges to recognize the immense value of such a camp and would like to have a "Kidston Enthusiast" in each congregation. Would you consider offering for this very worthwhile position? Each year, Woodlawn contributes generously to the Canadian Tire campaign called, **Buckets O' Money**. In 2009, YOU donated \$114.39. Thank you!! Each year, from March to early June, we ask for your assistance with this fundraiser.

Church In Action: (Shannon MacLean) This Committee's purpose is to be involved with social, political and economic concerns. The following subject matters were addressed:

- Face of Poverty Consultation: Carolyn Earle and Elizabeth Brown made regular reports to the Court from this group which acts as agents of healing and hope. They work with the marginalized, the vulnerable and the powerful to deal with the economic, political and social inequities in our society. As an inter-faith organization, they try to broaden their membership to include more faith groups. The officers are Valerie Getson, Carolyn Earle, Gwen MacLean, Michael Bradfield and Jane Cushing.

The Face of Poverty holds an inter-faith service every November to remind the faith groups, the public and the politicians of the unanimous 1989 Commons resolution calling on the Federal Government to work to end child poverty by 2000. Very little progress has been made. This group prepares briefs emphasizing the need to provide immediate assistance to the poor, through increased accessibility to employment insurance, more affordable housing and day care.

The Face of Poverty Consultation works with other anti-poverty organizations such as Affordable Energy Coalition, Community Coalition to End Poverty and Community Action on Homelessness. Some members serve on the Anglican Justice Camp, Kairos, and Make Poverty History.

Remits: Two remits from General Council were presented, discussed, voted on and passed by the Court:

- to change the Basis of Union to reflect that it shall be the duty of the Congregation (as opposed to Pastoral Charges, Council, Official Board, etc.) to elect to Presbytery representatives who are in full church membership of the Congregation.
- to change the Basis of Union to reflect that only the term 'elect' be used to determine the membership of Committees of Congregations, Presbyteries and Conference. (Previously, the terms elect, select and appoint were used interchangeably)

The foregoing provides some insights into the many areas of focus of Halifax Presbytery this past year, and of the people who make it happen. We conclude with these words from Chair, Wyman Benjamin: *I feel honored as one of your representatives from Woodlawn United Church to have been installed as Chairperson of Halifax Presbytery in June of 2009 for a two-year term. While I have always found my Presbytery work to be challenging, it is always very interesting and fulfilling. I thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve you as one of your representatives in Presbytery. I pray that you will consider offering to be a Presbytery representative for our congregation and, therefore, have the opportunity for input into the future of our church.*

All members of Presbytery (both lay and ordered) have the privilege and responsibility of attending the Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference.

Maritime Conference AGM: The 84th Maritime Conference Annual Meeting was held from May 28 - May 31, 2009 in the Tantramar Regional Civic Centre. Those attending Maritime Conference from Woodlawn this year were Vivian Hill, Dorothy Lindsay, Wyman Benjamin, Jakob Creighton and the Rev.'s Valerie and Phillip Kennedy. The theme was "Gospel and Empire: what about us?" There was no guest theme speaker as such, but rather a number of local speakers presented reflections on various aspects of Empire. The weekend was filled with presentations, table group discussions, elections of delegates to General Council and much business, including 28 Proposals which were debated, 18 of which were sent on to GC. Interspersed with the business matters were worship, music and times of fellowship amongst the several hundred delegates who

attended. The final event, which is always a highlight of the Conference, was the Celebration of Ministry Service on Sunday morning, with the consecration of those persons being ordained, commissioned, or recognized in various forms of Ministry. (Four of them were from Halifax Presbytery.).

Respectfully submitted,
Wyman Benjamin, Vivian Hill, Dorothy Lindsay, Ross Osborne
The Rev.'s Valerie and Phillip Kennedy and Shannon MacLean

TIME OUT FOR CRAFTS

Time Out is an outreach project open to anyone in the community. All teachers are volunteers. We have a fee of \$15.00 for twelve weeks of learning a new craft or enjoying an old one, while having fun and lots of fellowship. So why not come out and join in.

We had two sessions in 2009, with a registration of 81 in January and 68 in September. At the end of each session, we have a display and serve tea/coffee and goodies. All are welcome to come and see what we've been doing. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration takes place about the second week of January and the second week of September.

Courses offered are: Crochet, Knitting, Quilting, Needlework of various kinds, Tole Painting, Scrapbooking and Bridge. We have been very lucky to have dedicated teachers who keep coming back year after year. Our thanks go to: Betty Bruhm, Marian Brouwer, Elizabeth Crawford, Lil Hemming, Edith MacLean, Norma Hemming, Noelle Rosario, Karen Burchell, Violet Oare, Joan MacDougall and Dorothy Sams. Committee members are: Thelma Ernst, Jean Romkey, Joan Angus and Dorothy Sams.

Financial Statement:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Carried forward from 2008: | | \$84.98 |
| Receipts: | | |
| Registration fees | \$2235.00 | |
| Total: | | \$2319.98 |

Disbursements:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Woodlawn United Church | \$1000.00 | |
| Woodlawn Accessibility | \$ 800.00 | |
| Woodlawn UCW kitchen | \$200.00 | |
| R. Sams -Trolleys for tables/chairs | \$170.00 | |
| Supplies of tea, coffee, etc. | \$125.00 | |
| Total Disbursements: | | \$2295.00 |
| Balance on hand end of December 2009: | | \$ 24.98 |

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Sams

YOUTH COFFEE HOUSE

The Youth Coffee House began 12 years ago to service the special needs youth and young adults from ages 16 years and up in our community and surrounding areas with a safe, welcoming and inviting place to socialize and meet new friends. We hold the coffee house once a month on the last Saturday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. In December, coffee house is held mid- month. We hold theme based events such as the Halloween party, Christmas potluck and carol sing, Easter party, 50's dance and spring ice-cream social. There are approximately 30-40 participants each month. The evening consists of games, crafts, music and lots of laughter.

This venture is possible only thru the support of the Outreach Committee, the Kiwanis Club of Cole Harbour - Westphal, the UCW and of course, Woodlawn United Church. Sincere thanks to all of our supporters.

Brenda Blair and Donna Jackson
Coordinators of Youth Coffee House