

ANNESLEY UNITED CHURCH

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82 Toronto Street South, Box 573, Markdale, ON

Office 519-986-3019 ~ Church 519-986-3147

NEWSLETTER Summer 2021

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Summer is the quietest time in the church building - people are away, very few regular rental groups are meeting, winter programs are on a summer hiatus. The COVID-19 pandemic has been like an extended summer in the building, as restrictions have limited even the meetings that we regularly are able to hold. *But, a LOT has been happening "behind the scenes":*

Our wonderful librarian, Lynn Wyvill, has been updating the library selections, and communicating with everyone weekly to highlight books and DVDs that everyone is welcome to borrow to pass the time at home. She even set up a delivery program!

The Annesley Quilters have been completing quilts at home, and have been providing quilts as needed in the community. At the beginning of the pandemic, when people were first trying to find masks, Nancy Edwards sewed many, many wonderful masks in two sizes, and made them available to all.

The Prayer Shawl program has been in full swing. Some of our expert Knit Wits have taken wool home to knit the beautiful and cozy shawls that are distributed to comfort people in the congregation and the community. People have been great to communicate the need for shawls to Jean Benninger, which is difficult to do when we don't meet each week.

Dedicated members of the Garden Club have been trimming, weeding and watering the beautiful gardens around Annesley. Theirs is a "socially distanced" activity, and they have kept the grounds looking lovely.

Dale Beare has kept the FundScrip program going, with an order each month. FundScrip is one of the few fundraising methods that we have been able to keep up this past 17 months. Thanks to the regular group of people who have ordered each month, FundScrip has provided **thousands** of dollars in revenue to Annesley since Dale started it a few years ago. If you have not discovered the benefits of this program, give it a try!

A replacement for the annual Pork Chop BBQ, the Harriston Packing Co. meat fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to all who ordered, helped organize, and on delivery day. *See more in this Newsletter.*

Centering Prayer have continued to meet in their own homes, and have brightened the spirits of the community by providing 4 lunches to the staff at Centre Grey Hospital and Grey Gables. They also helped the Easter Bunny by providing treats and Easter blessings to many people. What a great idea!

The caring and dedicated people on the Pastoral Care Team, Jill Lawford, John Lewis and Heather Spry, have been amazing over the past 17 months, and before that, with the absence of a minister. People have needed extra care during this time for many reasons, and they have been there for them. (Cont'd)

The Search Team have continued to meet, have updated our listings and have followed up every possible lead to attempt to find a minister for Annesley. This is a very difficult task, as over 200 Pastoral Charges are looking for ministers. *More details later in this Newsletter.*

The Property Committee and the custodian have kept the building and the furnace in good shape. For all of that necessary hand washing, we now have hands-free faucets and new wheelchair friendly sinks in the upstairs washrooms.

Another group of people have put much time and effort into updating Annesley's website (markdaleunited.ca) over the last few months. You can now go on the website to watch services, find links to books and their authors in our library, view and print Annual Reports, read weekly news and newsletters, print FundScrip forms or forms for other fundraisers as they happen. Or, you can just go there to see some wonderful photos of Annesley United Church!

The Annesley Trustees work hard every year to make sure that the Insurance coverage meets our needs, and this year they worked on an idea that was introduced at the Annual Meeting in February of 2020: to combine the various cemetery boards. *This will be presented at the Annual Meeting on July 14th.*

We are thankful for everyone who has continued to support Annesley through PAR and envelopes in the mail and over the counter. Many of the regular expenses have continued throughout the pandemic, and that support has kept us afloat.

Last but not least, a very dedicated and hardworking group have provided a beautiful service each week since March of 2020, so that the congregation (and beyond) can have some of their spiritual needs met through a church service from Annesley. Countless hours are spent each week to prepare the service that is shown on YouTube, and it has been viewed each week by a far greater number than attend services when they are in the building. (*The Christmas Eve Service has been viewed almost 800 times!*) The goal is to continue to have a service for the people who will not be able to attend Annesley when we resume services in the building. So, the time has come to look for a new way to record the services as they happen. The July 11th service will be the last one that we provide which has been pre-recorded. We will be converting to a live stream in preparation for returning to regular services. Please take time at the end of the July 11th service to view the lengthy list of people who have contributed to the production of the online services over the last 17 months. You will be amazed at how many people have been involved in this ministry. We will be taking a break for a couple of weeks while we figure out the equipment and skills that will be needed to do the live stream. We will provide links to other services during that time.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. **In order for us to safely prepare for the seating, we ask if you would kindly R.S.V.P. to 519-986-3019, so we can have an idea of the number of people who will be attending.** We will be using the meeting to test seating and traffic flow for eventual in-church services. **The Annual Report** is ready and digital copies have been sent out with the announcements for the last few weeks. Let us know if you want a paper copy, and one will be provided to you. *Copies are also available for download on Annesley's website.* Items that will be discussed are: how to honour David Fries' time at Annesley, and how the congregation is feeling about reopening now that most people have been vaccinated. Last year, a survey showed that very few people were comfortable with returning until the vaccine had been developed and distributed. Things will still be limited due to restrictions – sign-in at the door, no singing, no coffee hour, seating with household members only, but it will be one step toward getting back to “normal”.

BAPTISMS*None since August 2020 Newsletter***IN MEMORIAM**

Catherine Weldrick	May 2, 2021
Elizabeth Russell	June 4, 2021
Beatrice McCutcheon	June 10, 2021
Jill Strachan	June 11, 2021



Thank you to all who organized, volunteered and /or supported the first ever **Harriston Packers Meat Sale Fundraiser**. Approximately 75 households received an order, along with their Chapman's Ice Cream coupon. **Over \$2,100 was raised in total!** Pickup day turned fine, so both volunteers and buyers were able to enjoy some overdue and safe visiting. As well, a good logistical foundation was laid for both this event and others like it in the future. This fundraiser was in lieu of our Pork Chop BBQ. We are giving some thought to another Harriston event later this year. So thank you again to everyone, and special thanks to Gracie and Kady Den Haan, our youngest volunteers, who brought with them their very own special sunshine.

CanadaHelps.org

Please don't forget the Annesley still has regular expenses during this time.

Members who are not currently on pre-authorized remittance (PAR) for regular donations are encouraged to continue their givings by dropping them off at the church office, mailing cheques to Annesley United Church, P.O. Box 573, Markdale, ON, N0C 1H0, or by Credit card through CanadaHelps.org. --- Annesley United Church- Markdale Pastoral Charge is listed there, and Canada Helps will send you a tax receipt and forward the donation to us. Individual donations to Mission and Service can also be made online through Canada Helps.

Also, use the Canada Helps button on our website: www.markdaleunited.ca

Minutes of Board Meetings A reminder that the latest minutes from all board meetings are posted on the bulletin boards inside each entrance to the church. Ask at the office if you would like copies of the minutes for previous meetings – you are welcome to read them to get your news from the source about plans, discussions and decisions throughout the year at Annesley.

Changes*Submitted by John Lewis*

This is a difficult article to write. Bittersweet. Several longstanding members of the Annesley family have left or are leaving the Annesley family.



Mona Livingstone has left her home on Herbert Street and has relocated to London, Ontario. She is now residing at the Richmond Woods Retirement Village there. While she will be greatly missed by family and friends here in Grey Highlands, she joins an abundance of family in London, and we know she will soon make many friends in London. Mona has done it all here at Annesley and will leave a vacancy on our Board of Trustees where she has served for many years. And a big hole in many hearts. You go with our love Mona.

Jane and Wes Irwin will be leaving their Century Home on Toronto Street North, bound for Hanover sometime in mid August. They have purchased a new condo in Hanover and are hoping that it will be ready by then. They will be closer to both of their kids and grand “kids” as well. As usual, they can be found at their trailer at Ayton many weekends. Jane and Wes have also served in a variety of capacities here at Annesley. Jane will be most remembered for her exceedingly long tenure in the choir loft. This past year she was willing to stand in front of the cameras and lights and sing the hymns with a partner on our webcasts. We trust that we will see a lot of Wes and Jane in the future.

Helen and Chris Smits are also leaving Markdale and their Annesley family. They have sold their home on Brackenbury and have purchased one in Halifax, Nova Scotia!! A whole new experience and closer to one of their daughters. I am told that they will be officially retired. Chris and Helen have likewise served in many ways here at Annesley, and might both be described as ready willing and able. During the past three years, Chris has led us in worship, too many times to count; on a single Sunday or over several months. When not in the pulpit of a Sunday, he customarily took a few steps back into the choir loft. Words cannot properly express our gratitude for Chris’s selfless generosity over the years. We bid the Smits’ a fond farewell.

This is the hard part: David Fries, our Music Director of twenty distinguished years, has spoken for some time now of retiring, but out of the goodness of his heart, his lifetime love of music and his deep attachment to the members of his choir, decided to stay on until Annesley found itself on a firmer footing. He had more recently targeted 2020, his twentieth anniversary as an appropriate year to bid farewell. It goes without saying that the Pandemic and all of its infinite ramifications made firmer footings well nigh impossible in so many ways. As 2020 wore on, David found himself at odds with both the production values and requirements of our electronic ministry, as well as being greatly dispirited by our Board’s reopening policy. Conciliation was unsuccessful. The upshot was David’s decision to retire. There are regrets, some anger and not a little sadness in many hearts. We can only pray that in the fullness of time there will be healing, understanding and forgiveness. And that God holds David in the palm of His hand.

David has been, and continues to be a good friend and a neighbour. Above all, I value that.

David would welcome your phone calls, and can be reached at 519-986-1499

Another ONLINE AUCTION is being planned for September!

The online auction held last October was a resounding success, due to the great quality and quantity of items donated. However, a lot of work was done by just a few people. If anyone would like to help with the appraisal, descriptions and cataloguing of items for the auction, please call the church office at 519-986-3019 or Diane at 519-317-5717



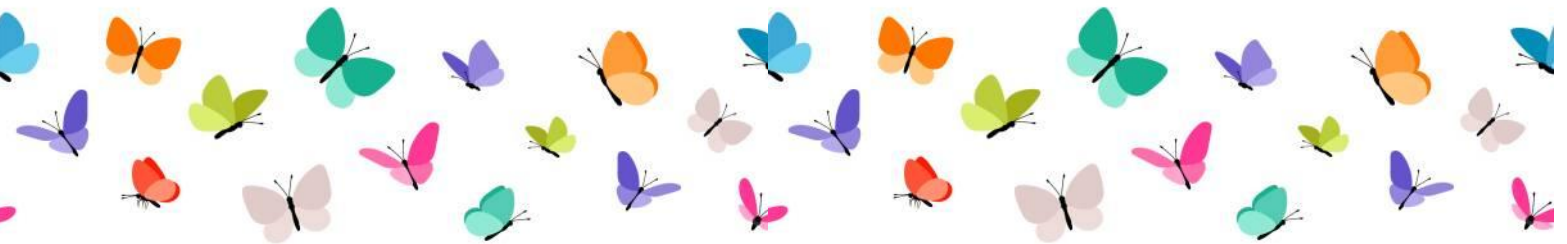
ONLINE AUCTION donations may be delivered to the church between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday to Friday during July and until **August 14th**. Items should be in good working condition, in as new or new condition, and cleaned. ***A thorough description of items will make it easier for volunteers to catalogue the items for the auction.***

Examples of auction items:

HANDMADE CRAFTS: Knitting, crocheting, quilting, rug hooking, sewing, grapevine wreaths, handmade Christmas décor, jewelry, pottery, paintings, stained glass and woodworking etc.

USED ITEMS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER-clean and new or like new, small kitchen appliances, chinaware, dishes, vintage or antique collectibles, sports cards, books

GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT CARDS

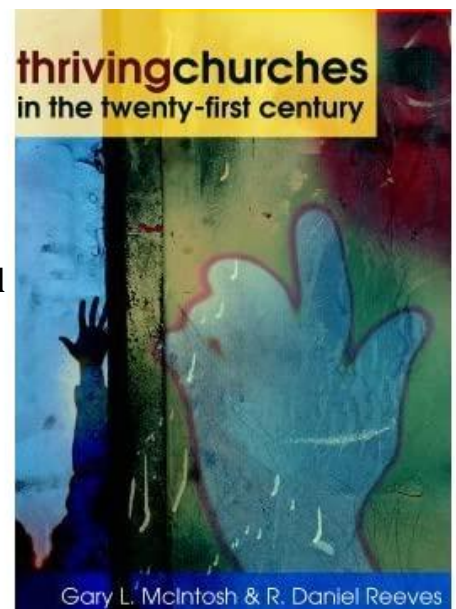


In the Library

**'Thriving churches in the twenty-first century
10 life giving systems for vibrant ministry'**

Gary McIntosh & Daniel Reeves

As churches position themselves for healthy, growing ministry, pastors and church leaders must understand the changes that affect the church. "But more importantly", Gary McIntosh and Daniel Reeves write, "churches need to focus on being intentional in how they respond." Using the analogy of the human body, Thriving Churches in the twenty-first century explores the ten interacting systems that make up a healthy body. If working together, these life-giving systems, which include spiritual energy, mentoring and intentional evangelism, will help your church experience lasting spiritual growth and robust ministry.





The next FundScrip order collection date is **FRIDAY, July 23rd**. Promotions in July are: Ultramar (2.5%), DeSerrres (7%) and The Canadian Brewhouse (10%)

The Reopening Committee met this week. Now that Ontario is in Stage 2, we are allowed to have 25% of capacity in the Sanctuary for religious ceremonies, rites and services.

We will use the Annual Congregational Meeting on July 14th at 7:00 p.m. to test traffic flows, sign- in and distanced seating, in preparation for a safe opening for Sunday services in the near future.

One of the items on the agenda for the July 14th Annual Congregational meeting will be a discussion to find out whether the congregation is gaining comfort in returning.

In order for us to prepare for the meeting, we ask if you would kindly R.S.V.P. to 519-986-3019, so we can have an idea of the number of people who will be attending.

Search Committee

The Search Committee soldiers on in the midst of a very difficult time. It is a time at which Annesley finds itself at several forks in what has been a bumpy road. Chair Mark Worthington, Hazel Johnston and Pamela Newman have been committee members since June of 2018. They are very tired to say the least. Skating close to the edge of burnout. John Lewis is a new member this year and Wendy McCauley is attempting to join the team, all the while juggling three careers. If you would be willing to serve on this committee we would ask that you speak with Mark Worthington.

At this time, we wish to reiterate our thanks to retiring members Dale Beare, Mora Foster and Joanne Timmins, each of whom was compelled to leave for health-related issues. Their work is to be commended.

We wish to remind the congregation that this is fairly poor soil that we are attempting to till. Over fifty prospects have been contacted, with perhaps ten replies, none progressing to the interview stage. We at Annesley are witness to the fact that the "calling" to ministers these days is not what it once was. And last but not least, is the concern for potential housing in these parts.

We have met three times since the last Newsletter, and while as well as grappling with the challenges of the United Church Hub, have joined with the Worship Committee (also now depleted) on the task of keeping a preacher in the pulpit from Sunday to Sunday.

We have only recently been in contact with a prospective hire that contacted us, but upon first contact does not seem enthused. We were disappointed, some time ago, when having arranged and begun an interview with what we believed to be an interesting candidate, it became clear that she was unaware that our posting was clearly one for 27 hours, not 40. Nevertheless, we had a cordial conversation and she shared some previously unknown aspects of the Church Hub.

In May, our Search Team attended a Zoom meeting on the subject of SME (Supervised Ministry Education). This was expedited by Kathy Underwood and advised by Diane Blanchard and Tanya Cameron, both of the United Church of Canada. This is a program by which a student minister is hired under contract and covenant, in lieu of an ordained minister. Depending on the school, this employment of either eight months or two years would take place either in the midst of their academics or at the conclusion of their studies. While the word “intern” springs to mind, it is not just about putting in time to gain experience, but an ongoing growth and education exercise as well. The candidate is supported by an LST (Lay Supervision Team) appointed by the Board of Elders. An Educational Supervisor, appointed by the United Church, meets regularly with the candidate and helps them to clarify goals, engage in shared reflection and focus learning skills in ministry. Hopefully, the relationship is mutually beneficial, and at the end of the term the candidate might determine to remain with the congregation on a permanent basis, through ordination, or alternately remain during completion of studies and subsequent ordination. While there are both advantages (travelling the path of learning with a minister in training, youthful and/or fresh leadership, and the prospect of a permanent hire) and disadvantages (that the candidate chooses to move on, or that during the student’s contracted period, we miss the opportunity of hiring a fully qualified and experienced ordained minister).

At this time we see two obstacles:

- Our nemesis, namely lack of housing opportunities in Markdale.
- The challenge of forming an LST at this time.

However, within our church family may be a group of three or four individuals who are excited by this challenge. So if at this time you wish to delve more deeply into this alternative, please speak with any member of the Search Team.

LETTER OF THANKS TO THE ANNESLEY WOODWORKERS’ GUILD

I am so happy for my family and for Bill especially, that our wonderful Annesley Woodworking Guild came out to our farm in Glenelg (West Grey) to work together, happily, and build two very large garden boxes. They will hold and nourish vegetables that we can grow to feed our family. I am hoping too, that Bill will someday walk again and be able to use his hands and arms again. My dream was always that Bill might come home and be able to walk down the row beside these waist-high boxes and pick vegetables or pull weeds or perhaps sit on the walker seat and think and dream or just look up the beautiful sky and watch the birds soaring. And maybe our 3 grandchildren can sit with him and listen to stories.

So, this amazing group of six came. They measured, they cut, they planned the next step and they built. Wow. Thank you all; all of you, even the absentees. You mean the world to us. Your willingness and skills and the planning that went into this project were simply wonderful. One of many I understand. You make the world a better place, one project at a time.

Blessings and peace. *Joanne Timmins and family:*

Bill, Joanne, Erin, Jenna, Cassidy, Jack, and Bennet

Many people have been asking about the talented woman who has been providing the music for the services that Gilles Haché has been leading for the past couple of months.

Thank you to Lynn Wyvill for providing this information about Lauren Best.

About Lauren Best



Lauren Best is an interdisciplinary artist, musician, and arts instructor, facilitator, and coach. She has been involved with local community organizations both in her youth and as an adult through her professional arts practice. Lauren has worked with local organizations such as Sheatre, Sandcastle Theatre, facilitating workshops at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, and directing the Meaford Children's Choir. Lauren has worked as an independent contractor and consultant since 2006 for a variety of arts and communications based businesses both in Grey/Bruce, and in the Toronto area. She has offered private music lessons and group workshops in schools and community organizations since 2010.

Lauren completed the Artist-Educator Professional Training Program at the Royal Conservatory of Music with the designations of Mentor/Lead Artist, and went on to become RCM faculty. Her work included curriculum development, leading workshops/classes/camps, and teacher training/mentorship, both at the RCM and with other organizations including the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Hospital. Lauren's interest in using neuroscience findings creatively was highlighted in her work with the RCM's new early childhood learning program "SmartStart InterArts", which is based on using music and multiple art forms to develop cognitive skills using both arts and cognitive science best practices.

She is passionate about engaging people of all ages, from newborns to the elderly, through both community based arts and individual coaching and instruction. She has offered private music lessons and group workshops in schools and community organizations since 2010, both directly and under contract and consulting agreements with organizations such as Gilda's Club Toronto, Dovercourt House (Boys & Girls Club), Rainbow Songs Foundation, Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board.

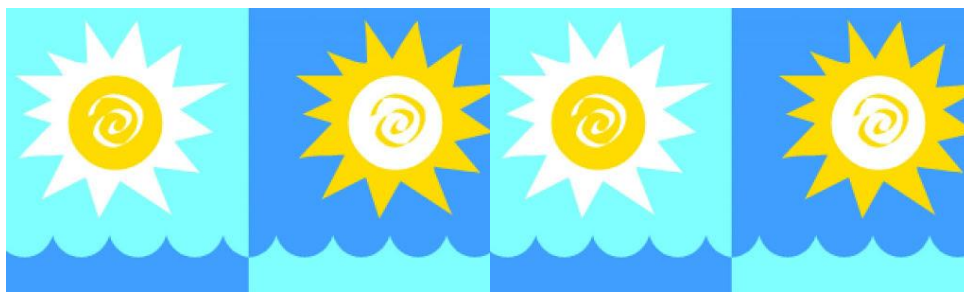
As a songwriter and performer, Lauren brings heartfelt reflection to the stage during her vocal and instrumental performances. Her music has been heard coast to coast since her debut album release in 2011, with collaborations ranging from electro pop bands to improvised choral music. She was Owen Sound's Poet Laureate (2017-2019) with a tenure focused on children, and she continues to bring music and multi-arts to people of all ages through a variety of programming partners (and on stage!). You can find Lauren's website at: <https://www.laurenbest.com/>

Our Regional Council, Western Ontario Waterways (WOWRC), has a wonderful website, full of news and resources. They offer a monthly newsletter that is full of free information on webinars and upcoming events all around our region.

WOWRC's site is (wowrcuscc.ca). If you wish to subscribe to their newsletter, or find to something in their archives, we recommend that you check it out!

Annesley Financial Statements – May 31, 2021

OPERATING RECEIPTS	May-2021			
Account Name	Current Month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	Budget 2020
Envelopes	7,086.50	41,370.30	40,283.60	115,000.00
Loose	0.00	0.00	667.00	4,000.00
Initial	0.00	70.00	340.00	
Sub Total	7,086.50	41,440.30	41,290.60	119,000.00
Turkey Supper			25.00	9,000.00
Pie, Plant & Yard Sale			145.00	4,000.00
Pork Chop BBQ				6,000.00
Other Fundraising-Xmas Bazaar				
-Car Rally				
-Coin Banks		175.00	1,350.40	
-Guess Who's...				
-Men's Brunch				
-Plant Sale				
-FundScript		1,099.54	607.30	
-Movie Night			140.65	
-Harriston Meats	130.00	130.00		
Other Fundraising Sub Total	130.00	1,404.54	2,098.35	16,000.00
Fundraising Sub Total	130.00	1,404.54	2,268.35	35,000.00
Rent	390.00	955.00	1,121.00	7,000.00
Weddings				
Sub Total	390.00	955.00	1,121.00	7,000.00
Observer Subscriptions		25.00		400.00
Presbytery Dues				
HST Refund			1,636.00	2,500.00
Interest from Memorial Fund				2,500.00
Shalom Local Support				
Miscellaneous			306.95	4,000.00
Sunday School				
Music Program				
Deductions (CRA)				
CEWS	532.40	3,173.64	187.06	
Sub Total	532.40	3,198.64	2,130.01	9,400.00
Total Receipts	8,138.90	46,998.48	46,809.96	144,400.00



OPERATING EXPENSES				
Account Name	May-2021			
	Current Month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	Budget 2020
Salaries	2,988.44	14,942.20	14,620.55	35,000.00
Contract Wages	409.70	8,048.50	9,548.50	23,000.00
Benefits	708.59	3,629.85	3,286.12	7,800.00
Interim Minister			7,680.84	15,000.00
Deductions				2,800.00
Surplus				20,611.00
Sub Total	4,106.73	26,620.55	35,136.01	104,211.00
Travel Allowance				
Cont. Ed. & Learning Res.				
Honourarium	2,100.00	10,500.00	500.00	1,200.00
Guest Speakers	1,363.82	1,363.82		2,000.00
Sub Total	3,463.82	11,863.82	500.00	3,200.00
Union Gas	384.61	2,663.40	3,073.32	5,000.00
Electricity, Water & Sewer	510.28	4,345.29	4,176.73	7,500.00
Church Maintenance		2,016.02	3,235.65	5,000.00
Insurance		12,741.84	10,888.00	9,000.00
Sub Total	894.89	21,766.55	21,373.70	26,500.00
Office Expenses	586.40	1,663.43	2,891.24	4,500.00
Telephone		438.36	541.68	1,400.00
Observer Subscriptions				500.00
Wedding Gratuities				
Presbytery Dues				8,189.00
Bank Fees		57.50	53.75	100.00
Music		140.00	551.00	3,000.00
M&P Committee				
Membership Committee				250.00
Outreach Committee		18.40		500.00
S. School, Christian Ed.				400.00
Library		144.20	133.50	250.00
Miscellaneous	1,156.15	2,200.04	1,331.10	4,000.00
Worship Committee		130.00	48.48	300.00
Fundraising - Pie, Plant, & Yard Sale				6,000.00
Pork Chop BBQ				
Turkey Supper				
Xmas Bazaar				
Men's Brunch				
Movie Night				
Boiler Repair			680.45	1,000.00
Funeral Gratuities		50.00	50.00	
HST	179.04	1,626.01	3,456.23	4,000.00
PAR & ADP Charges	44.95	254.81	242.36	600.00
Search Com.			148.00	1,500.00
Netcast Ministry		1,056.65		
Sub Total	1,966.54	7,779.40	10,127.79	36,489.00
Total Expenses	10,431.98	68,030.32	67,137.50	170,400.00
RECEIPTS (U)/O EXPENSES	-2,293.08	-21,031.84	-20,327.54	