

ANNESLEY UNITED CHURCH

82 Toronto Street South, Box 573, Markdale, ON

Office 519-986-3019 ~ Church 519-986-3147 NEWSLETTER Advent 2021

annesley@markdalecable.com ~ ~ ~ ~ <https://www.markdaleunited.ca>



As a result of the Congregational Meeting held after our first in-Person service on October 17th, there are several committees who have been working extra hard for the Annesley United Church family. The new Lay Worship Planning Committee has been busy putting together services for each Sunday. Rev. Kathy Underwood has graciously been working with the team to prepare the content of the services, and the committee has been recruiting volunteers to lead the services, read scripture, and light candles. Ted Spencer and Lauren Best have been set up on a schedule to provide music. Thanks to this committee of Mary Muir, Heather Spry, Marina Brown, Joanne Timmins, Barb Hutton and Mark Worthington, we have had wonderful services to enjoy in person, or at home on the YouTube channel, thanks to Stacy Hiltz and Tim Reilly.

Of course, the in-person services would not be possible without the hard work of the Reopening Committee. Leah Legate, Jane Currah, Dale Fawcett, and Ron Torry have spent many hours researching the best ways to keep everyone safe while allowing them to attend services. They have made sure that the protocols set up using “an abundance of caution” allow those who attend the services to be comfortable that all possible precautions have been taken for their safety.

The new Visioning committee have met twice, and have received the Terms of Reference from the Board to clarify their task. Thank you to Dale Beare, Jill Lawford, Bill Legate, Kathy Fraser, Della Goetz, Lacy Sciamanna, Lynn Wyvill and Gaye Wieringa for taking on this important project. “If you don’t know where you are going, every road will go nowhere.” This committee invites anyone else who is interested in the future of Annesley United Church to join them - 2 more members would be gratefully welcomed. Thank you to both of these new committees and to all who have been so willing to accept the request to volunteer to keep things going during these uncertain times.

If you missed the October 17th meeting, a summary can be found later in this Newsletter.

Another busy Committee:

The Christmas Basket Committee will be collecting donations of food items in November and December for the Christmas baskets. A list of requested items: **Canned Goods, Peanut Butter & Jam, Pasta & Sauce, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Salmon & Tuna, Coffee, tea & hot chocolate, Canned vegetables, Beans.** Donations will be accepted until December 10th, as the baskets will be packed on December 16th and delivered on December 17th. Cash or gift cards would be happily accepted. Your help will be greatly appreciated for this important Annesley outreach.

BAPTISMS

None since August 2020 Newsletter

IN MEMORIAM

James Carman Johnston
Harold Emmerson Johnston
Allan David Herbert Kinney

September 24, 2021
September 27, 2021
October 22, 2021

Visioning Group - Communication to congregation.

We have met (November 17th and November 24th) and listened to a large number of ideas. We are considering options that are happening in other situations. We invite other members for this highly important work, and would like 2 more people willing to meet on December 1st at 7:00 p.m. Contact the office (519)986-3019 if you would like to join.

LETTER OF THANKS

Thank you Jean Benninger!

For the past several years **Jean Benninger** faithfully delivered prayer shawls to both members of our congregation and the wider community. These are folks who need a comforting reminder that the Annesley family loves and cares for them when they are grieving, ill or recovering from surgery. Jean not only delivered the shawls but also knit shawls, contributed wool, and coordinated with the Annesley Knit Wits to ensure a steady supply of prayer shawls. What a gift Jean's ministry has been to so many!

Members of the Pastoral Care Team (PCT) will continue to deliver the shawls, and the wonderful Knit Wits will continue to knit. This group meets together twice a month in the parlour or in their own homes to knit a variety of items for the community. Please call Vivien Tolton if you are interested in being part of this group or would like to contribute wool for the group's projects.

Please let a member of the PCT know if you learn of someone either from our congregation or community who would benefit from receiving a shawl. Call us directly or leave a message with Patti in the church office. We truly depend on Annesley members to let us know when someone is in need.

PCT members are Jill Lawford, John Lewis, Patti Shaw and Heather Spry.

Annesley Woodworkers

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Next meeting is December 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Agenda includes final preparation for an Advent Intergenerational event for the congregation and community to make nativity scenes on December 11, 2021, at 1:30 pm, sponsored by the woodworkers.



Walking Sticks



As you may know, longtime Annesley member Harold Johnston passed away September 27, 2021, in his 90th year. When he died his shop contained approx 300 unfinished walking sticks. His children donated them to the Annesley Woodworkers, who have since passed them on to the congregation. Some are in a small barrel in the church lobby and you are invited to take one and finish it for your own use in memory of Harold.

Advent Intergenerational Event to Make Nativity Scenes

Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

COVID- 19 Protocols apply.

For children, youth, adults including parents and grandparents of Annesley and the community.

Sponsored by the Woodworkers.

Call the church office to register.

519-986-3019

Maximum attendance will be 30.



Thank you to the Annesley Woodworkers' Guild for revamping the garbage box at the west side of the church building.

-Marlene

The Reopening Committee and the Board have consulted with members of the congregation, other United churches in the area and around Ontario, contacts with Western Ontario Waterways & Shining Waters Regional Councils, and the Grey Bruce Health Unit to make a decision concerning requirements for COVID-19 vaccinations to attend services and events in the Annesley building. It has been decided that beginning on November 21st, until further notice, we will require verification of full (double) vaccination to attend any services and events in the building. Many people advised that they were reluctant to attend unless this policy was adopted. We hope to continue to meet the spiritual needs of anyone who cannot attend, for any reason, through our live stream and recorded services. We recognize the positive and negative impacts this policy will have on various people, and do not want to exclude anyone, especially anyone who needs Pastoral Care. Please advise if Pastoral Care is needed no matter what your vaccination status may be. We will revisit this decision in the spring of 2022, at our Annual Congregational meeting to be held in April 2022

Thank you, Tim!



Submitted by Lynn Wyvill

Annesley's weekly services, in the sanctuary and online, have been made possible in no small part by the talents and experience of a person who is generally in the background. Tim Reilly has dedicated hours to making Annesley's move into the pandemic and post pandemic age possible. Every Sunday morning he is upstairs in the gallery regulating sound and connections. He has devoted other hours during the week to reset and foolproof the system. He is an expert. When asked if he can make something happen, like hooking up connections for the hearing impaired, Tim says, "Only one crisis a week, please."

And within the week he has done his best to make progress in each request. There are a myriad of small details to make the Sunday service streaming happen. Tim is the genius who gets the results heard, seen and online. He is much too modest to bow to our praise, but he deserves our thanks, and prayers of gratitude for his gift of talent and time.



On behalf of the Membership and Outreach Committee, we would like to thank individuals, families and businesses who donated auction items, trucks, time and muscle for pickups; the many volunteers for their time in cataloguing and photography; staging and labelling items; as well as assisting with the auction preview and pick-up of items purchased. Thank you also to those who purchased items from the auction. These efforts resulted in total proceeds of \$10,100! Thank you. *Dale and Diane*



Dale and Diane, Your Annesley family thanks *YOU* for coordinating all of the volunteers, and for putting in countless hours to ensure that the September 23rd Online Auction was the success that it was.

FUNDSCRIP- The next order date will be SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th

Delivery by Friday, December 17th for your Christmas gift card presents.



Summary of Meeting – Annesley United Church October 17th, 2021

Mark Worthington welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 61 people in attendance. Mark discussed the financial situation at Annesley - we are in the same position as last year, but have not been paying a minister (or a music director since the end of April). Our ability to hold fund raisers has been seriously affected by COVID-19. The only fund raisers we have held in 2021 were the Harriston Meat Sale, and the recent Online Auction. FundScrip and the Coin Bank fundraisers are still ongoing, but need to be supported by more people in the congregation. At the Annual General Meeting on July 14th, it was reported that we had discontinued the Netcast recordings in the manner that they had been done from March, 2020 to July 2021. The method of recording a service, many hours of editing, and posting to YouTube was exhausting for all involved, and it was time to make a change to live streaming, even if there were faults and glitches. The recording crew had been paid an honorarium of \$250 per service.

It was discussed at the AGM that a firm in Owen Sound had quoted \$15,000 for equipment to live stream, with an additional cost for wiring and training, for an estimated total of approximately \$25,000. With the help of Tim Reilly, cameras and equipment were purchased for less than \$5,000, and the system has been set up to allow live stream and recording to be viewed on YouTube and the Annesley website. The equipment can also be used by renters of the Sanctuary for recording and broadcast of events such as concerts, weddings and funerals. We need more people to be trained on the equipment, to help with the operation of the system.

The kitchen renovations have not been done. We have on deposit the proceeds of a \$17,000 grant, another large donation, and regular givings which have been pledged to the project, but the project *will not be started until the funds are fully in place for it*. Costs of materials and availability of labour during the pandemic have also meant that the project will cost more than planned.

There was a discussion about what we could do to increase rental revenue, once the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed or lifted. An idea of having a Building Manager who would be in charge of marketing the building to the community for rentals, was suggested. This person could be at the building when rental events occurred, and could open the building, ensure lockup when completed, and be there to get supplies etc. if they run out during the rental. This could even be expanded to a Building Board who would manage the building and Annesley United Church congregation could rent space for worship or any events, and not have to pay the upkeep of the building. They could hire a marketing firm to find renters to fill the large space on a full time basis.

There was a question about what could be done if the power goes out for an extended period. A Generac system was suggested. The Property Committee could look into grants for retrofits and to supplement the cost.

(Summary of October 17th meeting continued next page)

At this point in the meeting, Rev. Kathy Underwood spoke, to say that she was inserting herself in the meeting. She believes in the congregation, and believes in the Board, but we were not facing the immediate problem at hand. We are not paying a minister or a choir director, but expenses still exceed revenue. In the past, we have relied on fund raisers to keep finances afloat, but COVID-19 has prevented most fund raising. The people working on the fund raisers are running out of energy. The same people working on the fund raisers are on the Board, and the Board had no new members this year. They give generously of their time, but we have an aging congregation, and there will be fewer and fewer people available, so less and less will get done. The Search committee has been looking for a minister for over 3 years. It is not their fault that we don't have a minister. United Church ministers are allowed to retire, and there are not many young people going into ministry.

Rev. Underwood said that we have some tough decisions to make; we have to decide: Do we want to exist? What does it look like to be faithful? It can mean giving time, energy and money, but it can be equally faithful to say that it is time to stop. We need more board members. We need more money. We need less fund raising. We need people to help.

Rev. Underwood suggested that **by the end of November**, we need 5 new board members, and 5 search committee people. A comment from the wife of a board member reinforced that the people who have been doing everything all along are burning out, and burning out their families, too. Another member stated that we have many talents in our congregation, many quiet talents, but people are afraid to step forward to help, because often to step forward means to end up in charge. People who have been doing things back off as soon as someone new is there to help. All of us want to be part of rebuilding, but don't know how. We need to draw on the quiet undercurrent, but let them know that we will not step away and leave them. There needs to be better communication about what it means to be on the board or on the search committee. There was another suggestion that people with good projecting voices could take over the services every once in a while. A group could get together to plan services until an interim minister is found, and if enough people helped with this, it would not fall on the shoulders of the same people who have been stretched so thin. People will do what you ask them to do. The discussion moved back to the building. If we were building a new church, we certainly would not build this building again. The building is not the church. The congregation is the church. "We love one another, but not the cost of this building."

Some available options were discussed:

1) Closing. What closure looks like: We could decide that in order to be faithful, we could close. We would enter into a process to decide what to do with the building. The United Church of Canada does not take the money from a sale and lock the doors. The closing congregation specifies where the proceeds of a building sale goes, how the funds are distributed, geographically, in the area, in or out of Canada. An inventory of contents would be made, and would be sold or given away. We would thank the people, and have a large celebration to honour previous ministers, previous members. The congregation would decide whether they join another congregation together, or disburse.

2) We could become a tenant of the building. Annesley could rent space in the building for our services and events, paying a fee to a board of management. The Church of the Nazarene in Markdale sold their building and bought another space in the community this past year.

3) Amalgamating with another congregation. There are many congregations in the area in the same position as us - aging/ declining membership, buildings to maintain, declining revenue.

(Summary of October 17th meeting continued next page)

This building sharing does not only have to be with United Church congregations, but can be other denominations. A member said that a church building they attended in another country was shared by 3 or 4 denominations, and it worked.

4) Working as a community church with a Non-denominational lay minister. Many congregations that have gone in this direction are growing. This would mean forming a community church and leaving the United Church, as any minister that is "called" must join or be ordained.

There are many choices , but all need PEOPLE. This meeting is our invitation.

There was a suggestion that perhaps we should not have a search committee, but a visioning committee to answer the question of where we should go before we look for a minister. Without a vision, it is hard to search. It would not make sense to hire a person to lead, if we are going another direction, or could not pay the person we hired long term.

The invitation: by the end of November:

- Join the Board
- Join the visioning /search committee
- Join a lay worship team to plan services for 6 months until we have a plan for the future.
- Contribute more.

RESULTS:

~There were 2 Volunteers for the Board. (3 more needed)

~There were 8 Volunteers for the Visioning Team.

They will meet after the November 9th Board Meeting, where Terms of Reference will be written for them.

~There were 7 Volunteers for the Lay Worship Team

They will meet as soon as possible to start planning. Rev. Underwood will help them.



Finance committee Report November 2021

At our congregational meeting October 17, 2021 we were asked how much does it cost to run the church on a monthly basis.

Heat Hydro Insurance Office & Maintenance:	\$3132/mth (2020)
Staff (Secretary, envelope steward and custodian):	\$4150/mth
Presbytery Dues	\$682
Total	\$7964 /month

Givings (Envelopes and Loose): **\$9656/ month (in 2020)**

That leaves approximately \$1700/month for Ministry and music

BUT: Minister and Music Director cost us \$8500/month in 2017

(2017 was the last year that we had a full time minister)

As discussed at the meeting, we either have to give more money or change our needs and expenses. You are all encouraged to make your thoughts known to Board members, Members of the Visioning Committee, or better still volunteer to join one of these groups.

Submitted by Mark Worthington, Chair

Annesley Financial Statements -October 31, 2021

OPERATING RECEIPTS				
Account Name	Oct-2021 Current Month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	Budget 2020
Envelopes	15,273.15	82,755.75	88,119.20	115,000.00
Loose	36.00	56.00	667.05	4,000.00
Initial	0.00	70.00	340.00	
Sub Total	15,309.15	82,881.75	89,126.25	119,000.00
Turkey Supper			25.00	9,000.00
Pie, Plant & Yard Sale			1,395.00	4,000.00
Pork Chop BBQ				6,000.00
Other Fundraising-Xmas Bazaar				
-Car Rally				
-Coin Banks	30.00	205.00	2,461.90	
-Men's Brunch				
-Plant Sale				
-FundScript		1,613.53	607.30	
-Movie Night			140.65	
-Online Auction	10,037.00	10,139.00	910.75	
-Harriston Meats		8,505.00		
Other Fundraising Sub Total	10,067.00	20,462.53	4,120.60	16,000.00
Fundraising Sub Total	10,067.00	20,462.53	5,540.60	35,000.00
Rent	400.00	1,655.00	1,391.00	7,000.00
Weddings		350.00	175.00	
Sub Total	400.00	2,005.00	1,566.00	7,000.00
Observer Subscriptions		25.00	200.00	400.00
Presbytery Dues				
HST Refund	1,041.02	1,041.02	5,438.78	2,500.00
Interest from Memorial Fund				2,500.00
Shalom Local Support				
Miscellaneous			446.95	4,000.00
Sunday School				
Music Program			40.00	
Deductions (CRA)				
CEWS	1,083.56	8,972.64	6,317.76	
Sub Total	2,124.58	10,038.66	12,443.49	9,400.00
Total Receipts	27,900.73	115,387.94	108,676.34	144,400.00
Online Auction				
	2021	2020		
Received from Snyder's	9,512.00	10,486.50		
Other Donations	627.00	1,260.75		
Total	10,139.00	11,747.25		

OPERATING EXPENSES		Oct-2021			
Account Name	Current Month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	Budget 2020	
Salaries	2,988.44	29,884.40	29,241.10	35,000.00	
Contract Wages	409.70	10,097.00	19,097.00	23,000.00	
Benefits	752.52	7,260.66	6,572.18	7,800.00	
Interim Minister			17,341.12	15,000.00	
Deductions				2,800.00	
Surplus				20,611.00	
Sub Total	4,150.66	47,242.06	72,251.40	104,211.00	
Travel Allowance					
Cont. Ed. & Learning Res.					
Honourarium	600.00	14,500.00	1,000.00	1,200.00	
Guest Speakers & Musician	440.00	5,655.22	250.00	2,000.00	
Sub Total	1,040.00	20,155.22	1,250.00	3,200.00	
Union Gas		3,237.73	3,494.60	5,000.00	
Electricity, Water & Sewer	255.75	5,691.52	5,952.45	7,500.00	
Church Maintenance	39.99	2,153.82	8,072.04	5,000.00	
Insurance		12,741.84	10,476.00	9,000.00	
Sub Total	295.74	23,824.91	27,995.09	26,500.00	
Office Expenses	173.02	2,306.63	3,661.46	4,500.00	
Telephone	109.53	1,097.41	1,092.55	1,400.00	
Observer Subscriptions				500.00	
Wedding Gratuities		400.00			
Presbytery Dues				8,189.00	
Bank Fees		58.75	53.75	100.00	
Music		140.00	695.99	3,000.00	
M&P Committee					
Membership Committee				250.00	
Outreach Committee		394.40		500.00	
S. School, Christian Ed.				400.00	
Library		239.04	229.98	250.00	
Miscellaneous		1,109.70	1,498.88	4,000.00	
Worship Committee		130.00	48.48	300.00	
Fundraising - Ple, Plant, & Yard Sale				6,000.00	
Harriston Meats		6,374.00			
Turkey Supper					
Xmas Bazaar					
Men's Brunch					
Movie Night					
Boiler Repair		315.00	2,591.85	1,000.00	
Funeral Gratuities		50.00	50.00		
HST	105.99	2,560.80	4,835.69	4,000.00	
PAR & ADP Charges	46.90	479.01	461.66	600.00	
Search Com.			296.00	1,500.00	
Netcast Ministry		1,627.13			
Sub Total	435.44	17,281.87	15,516.29	36,489.00	
Total Expenses	5,921.84	108,504.06	117,012.78	170,400.00	
RECEIPTS (U)/O EXPENSES	21,978.89	6,883.88	-8,336.44		

