

St. John's United Church Annual Report 2021



At St. John's United Church, we strive to make our Church a Spiritual Centre that welcomes people of all ages to grow in Faith and become Alive in Christ.

Table of Contents

	Page Numbers
February 28, 2021, Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes	3
February 27, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda	4
Minister's Report	6
Co-coordinator's Report	8
Allenwood Cemetery Board	9
Emerging Together Team	9
Memorial Team	10
Men's Fellowship Group	10
Ministry and Personnel Team	11
Mission and Service Team	11
Music Director	11
Outreach/Publicity Team	13
Praise Team	14
Property and Finance Team	14
Sunday School	14
Financial Report	15
Son Light Solar Project	15
Trustees' Report	16
Soul Sisters' Report	16
Worship Team	16
Tech Team	20
St. John's United Church 2021 Financial Statements	21
Expense Statement and Budget 2022	22
Proposed 2022 Executive Council	23
Proposed 2022 Group & Team Membership	24

St John's United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday February 28th, 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 34 in attendance.

Beth Truax welcomed us, and Rev. Meg opened with a prayer.

It was moved by Sandy Coe and seconded by Rick Muller "That adherents be granted voting privileges on Temporal (non-spiritual) matters only." Carried.

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Don Coutts, seconded by Doreen Turner. Carried.

Don Kennedy moved "that the minutes of the February 23rd, 2020, Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated or corrected" seconded by Jan Drinkill. Carried.

In Memorium by Rev. Meg.

Team Reports were reviewed.

Linda Muller has resigned as chair of Accessibility. Krista Belrose has volunteered to take over.

The McGee family has requested that donations made in memory of Sam McGee be transferred to the general account.

Sandy Coe has resigned as chair of M&P. Still need new chair.

We received no bill for snow removal this year as it was a donation by Rick Drinkill of Pilon Construction. Thank you.

The proceeds from the sale of the manse have been invested @1% interest for 18 months.

The 3-acre property has been sold for \$260,000. Once legal and other costs have been paid, the \$258,179.93 remaining will be invested at 0.8% for 18 months

Moved by Rosemary Johnston and seconded by Brenda Krohn "that we approve the Team and Group Reports as presented in the 2020 Annual Report" Unanimously carried.

Ross presented the financial report.

Moved by Rosemary Johnston and seconded by Ross Langman "that we approve the 2020 Financial Statements as presented" Carried.

Ross presented the budget. We received a refund on the church insurance. Internet package reduced to basic \$62.14 as not presently required for services. The administrator will be back on salary mid-May. She will be off July and August but will come in as a volunteer if needed. Thank you, Karen.

Moved by Sandy Coe and seconded by Ken French "that we approve the 2021 budget recommendation as presented by the Property and Finance Team on behalf of the Council Executive" Unanimously carried.

New Business:

a) Moved by Allan Wright and seconded by Doreen Turner "that we approve the 2021 M & S objective of \$3000." Unanimously carried.

b) Nominations from the floor. Allan Wright to Board of Trustees and Karen Parnell-Knight to M&P. Accepted and approved.

c) It was agreed that a token of appreciation be given to Karen Bryant. Sandy Coe will arrange.

d) Thanks to Lynn and Don Coutts for looking after the garden.

The next regularly scheduled Annual Congregational Meeting will be on February 27th, 2022
Meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Meg.

St. John's United Church Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Sunday, February 27th, 2022

1) Blessing

2) Call to Order: Beth Truax

3) Opening Prayer: Rev. Meg

4) Motion to grant voting privileges

Moved by _____ Seconded _____ " That the

Adherents be granted voting privileges on Temporal (non-spiritual) matters only." Carried.

5) Approval of Agenda

a) Additions/Changes/Deletions

Moved by _____ Seconded _____ " That the Agenda be approved as circulated or changed" Carried.

6) Approval of the Sunday February 28th, 2021, Annual Meeting Minutes

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ "that the Minutes of the February 28, 2021, Annual Meeting be approved as circulated or corrected" Carried

7) In memorial: Rev. Meg

8) Team Group Reports:

a) Accessibility Team	g) Ministry and Personnel
b) Board of Trustees	h) Mission and Service
c) Property and Finance	i) Outreach/Publicity
d) Education	j) Soul Sisters
e) Memorial	k) Worship
f) Men's Fellowship Group	

9) Consideration and Approval of the Team and Group Reports as presented in the 2021 Annual Report

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ "that we approve the Team and Group Reports as presented in the 2021 Annual Report" Carried

10) Presentation of the 2021 Financial Statements

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ "that we approve the 2021 Financial Statements as presented" Carried

11) Presentation of the 2022 Budget Recommendation

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ "that we approve the 2022 budget recommendation as presented/amended by the Property and Finance Team on behalf of the Council Executive" Carried

12) New Business

a) Approval of the 2022 M&S Objective as recommended by the Council Executive

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ "that we approve the 2022 M&S objective" Carried

b) Team nominations from the floor

13) Next Annual Meeting Date:

14) Closing Prayer

Minister's Report for 2021 Rev. Meg Jordan

This was the year of continuing to do our best online with YouTube playlist worship services. Thankfully, after my holiday in July, we began to carefully and gingerly come together in the sanctuary for in-person worship live-streamed services as a worship team. This led us to figuring out how we would begin to invite members of the congregation to join us. We decided to begin gradually with those who not only had been unable to attend worship but had also been unable to access the online services. This is how the year looked.

- January to August 1st—Online Worship via YouTube Playlist
- August 8 to August 22 Live-streamed worship from the church without congregation.
- August 29—Sept. 5 two Sundays with in-person attendance of congregation members who were not able to be with us online.
- September 12—Dec. 24th—open for in person worship services until our capacity restrictions were reached.

Special thanks to Liz McKnight and friends who faithfully disinfected the sanctuary before every worship service.

This was also the year of the vaccine. I received my vaccine shots on April 4th, July 1st and then Dec. 20th. Being vaccinated entirely changed the way St. John's navigates the reality of the Covid 19 virus. Since August I have been able to stay with my daughter in Barrie again and be present for my regular schedule in Elmvale. People have been asked to telephone the office to reserve their seats for worship—aware that if we reached our capacity restriction limits of 25, we would have to turn them away. Attending worship in the church building involved being responsible for self-screening ahead of time, checking in with a greeter, sanitizing hands, wearing masks and keeping socially distanced. At council we made the difficult but, in my opinion, Christ-like decision not to require proof of vaccination for worship which meant that we had to act as safely as possible with one another the way we would in any public situation. We began timidly, but slowly, introducing more and more live involvement—the measure of this being the extent to which the choir could sing live music. Bob managed the situation masterfully culminating with a service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 4th. As the reader, I was placed safely with a microphone at the back and the choir was placed carefully and safely across the front of the sanctuary and all sang with their masks on, which is not easy.

The emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant changed things for us considerably with new problems having to do with increased community transmission. We managed to get through our two in-person Christmas Eve candle-light services although attendance was considerably reduced due to covid concerns. Whereas at the beginning of the week, the reservation list for each Christmas Eve service (4 p.m. and 7 p.m.) was almost completely full—by Christmas Eve many had called to cancel and some just simply didn't show up. The services were wonderful with different special music for each service. However, at the very end of 2021 an emergency Zoom council meeting was called, and a unanimous decision was made to discontinue in-person congregational worship again— for the time being. However, we have not returned to the YouTube Playlist days. We are offering live-streamed services with leadership kept to a minimum—myself, Bob, Cheryl, Fern and Doug or Allen with the support of Karen Parnell when she can make it—which, thankfully has been most of the time. As of this writing, this is where we are. It is good to be able to be in the sanctuary and to be broadcasting live from St. John's.

Pastoral care continued mostly via telephone. After what felt like an unending onslaught of deaths of congregational members in 2020, in 2021 I was called upon only occasionally to preside at funerals.

Jeff Nesbitt's ashes were laid to rest with his grandmother in Elmvale Cemetery. Elmer McFadden was buried at Allenwood, Robert Todd was buried in Vasey, Lawrence Townes was buried in Hillsdale, and Lillian Fry was buried in Midhurst. I was able to carefully and safely move into person-to-person visits with some folks. It became clear that self-care was something I needed to attend to because unlike my usual ability to be in touch with deep emotions without falling apart I was experiencing break-down frequently—particularly during prayer. I knew I was overloaded. I reached out to a colleague who had advised me when I was first ordained to find myself a spiritual director. The person he recommended turned out to be just exactly what I need. Wendy Passmore in Orillia has been a Godsend for me. She is someone who has moved her ministry with ease into the online space. She holds our time together so that I am able to pour myself out without being concerned about being inappropriate. Mostly what she does is listen and reflect back to me what she hears. My outpourings have sometimes surprised me and revealed unexpected "nudges of the Spirit" in my life. That is her language about the way God works. I find it helpful.

Special events for me in 2021 included

- a wonderful Baptism under the maple tree outside Fellowship Hall. There is a recording of this at the end of the service on August 22nd.
- An amazing Turkey Supper Take-out event organized by Beth that involved many volunteers from former times and brought in much needed financial support
- a Pre-Advent event—called Walk to Bethlehem which was advertised in the Springwater News and attracted many newcomers to our church. For this event we had to require proof of vaccination.
- Reception of new members—Aimee Dare and her mother Linda Dunn. Sadly, our friends Don and Lynn Coutts had to withdraw from this due to a tragic death in their family. I keep in touch and look forward to their reception at another time.
- I thoroughly enjoyed a service centered on the gifts of children—a Children's Grinch Christmas Pageant and many musical offerings. Thanks to Melanie Giffen and Kari VanLaarhoven and Fern for pulling it together.
- A Youth led Dramatic Reading by Dustin Hales, Noah Parnell and Naomi Hales. I have been able to keep in touch with them via Text.
- A sparsely attended afternoon candlelight Memorial service was held to acknowledge loved ones who are no longer with us. Hopefully next year we will be back to holding ecumenical services sponsored by Lynnstone Funeral Home.
- Participation in meetings of the Simcoe County Honduras Rights Monitor committee meetings and a "Free Edwin Espinale" event across from the Spring farm on hwy 92 to raise interest in his trial. We praise God that he has finally been exonerated and hopefully will be coming to visit us with his wife Karen Spring very soon.
- Regular Participation in North Simcoe Rural Church Cluster with folks from Shining Waters.
- Connection with a Clergy Cluster from former Northern Waters Presbytery. I struggle with where I belong until a decision is made to pursue our request for change. My voting privileges currently reside with Western Ontario Waterways.
- Weekly Spirit Café meetings which have adapted very well to a weekly Zoom and picked up several regulars. We will likely continue this way as we are able to connect with folks who would not otherwise be able to join us such as Don Kennedy and Carrie Nesbit.
- Discussions with the Community Church took place.
- The year ended with the discovery of a Howard Thurman poem I wish to share with you.

*I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

~ Howard Thurman

Co-Ordinator's Report 2021

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write my message and reflect on the last year at St. Johns, I can honestly say 2021 was another astonishing year, a year where our world changed. This was another year when Covid-19 impacted everything that we did, everything we thought and acted on, and yet, we have also experienced God's faithfulness and love.

St. John's Council members and our staff faced significant challenges and transitions in dealing with Covid-19, by pivoting the way we worship, and how we met. I know that not everyone felt comfortable with Zoom, so we tried our best to keep our communication open, so that all could participate in the decisions that were made. We were able to quickly transition from live streaming, to worshipping in a sanctuary with people, and then back to live-streaming again. This was all done by the talents of our "tekkies". We are extremely blessed to have these dedicated people give of their time and talents, so that we can continue to worship with our St. John's Family.

The Worship and Outreach Teams outdid themselves in trying to keep St. John's vibrant, active and "out there". Throughout the year, despite the limits of Covid-19 protocols and ever-changing public health orders, our church has maintained its approachability, community involvement and connection. It was terribly exciting to hear of all the places that had tuned in to listen to something happening at our little church.

Let us not forget (to me) one of the most exciting things that happened to St. John's this year.... the parking lot got paved!

I'm sure that my dad is smiling from above, thankful that St. John's has finally gotten this project done!

I remain forever grateful/thankful to all of our faithful Council members, staff and many others who took the time and care to continue to keep our church open and carried us through 2021. It is unclear as to how long this will last but I know that as we go forward into 2022, we will continue to do our best to keep our community connected and we will do it together as a Faith Family.

As I "hand over the reins" so to speak to Rosemary Johnston, I would like to thank everyone that has guided, nudged, or pushed me along. The support has been truly appreciated.

With warmest regards.... Beth Truax

Allenwood Cemetery Board Report for 2021

Receipts

Bank balance January 1, 2021,		\$ 34,854.10
Public Guardian and Trustee	\$1,095.59	
Bank interest	\$ 4.79	
Sale of Niche	\$2,300.00	
Sale of Cremation Plots	\$2,100.00	
Full Burial Plots	\$16,800.00	
Monument permits & opening	\$5,750.00	
Donations	\$500.00	
Total	\$28,550.38	
Total		\$ 63,404.48

Expenditures

Public Guardian and Trustee	\$1,945.00	
Flower Shoppe	\$100.00	
Sanderson Printing	\$485.90	
Regular interment	\$3,300.00	
Cremation interment	\$1,500.00	
Monument marking	\$200.00	
Grass cutting and trimming	\$3,800.00	
Honorarium	\$400.00	
Investment purchased	\$27,912.02	
Total	\$39,642.92	
Total		\$23,761.56

Treasurer: Ross Langman

Emerging Together Team Report 2021

The Emerging Team was formed in 2016 during Meg's first year, and there were many meetings held in people's homes. Once all the results had been compiled the results were presented to the Congregation and discussed and length. A vote was taken, and the 5-year plan approved.

With the onset of the pandemic, everything ceased. The following is a list of what has been accomplished followed by where we thought, at that period in time, we wanted to go.

Done

1. Sanctuary, painting and repair

2. Live stream worship
3. Update Sunday School room
4. Accessible bathroom
5. Update Kitchen
6. Parking Lot (2021)
7. New Directory
8. Question box for minister
9. Balance of new and familiar music (started, ongoing)
10. Selling of the land

When we return to "normality" the emerging team and any others from St. John's who would like to join us, will need to meet and modify the plan.

Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Johnston

Memorial Report 2021

Opening Balance:	\$36,972.44
Income:	\$ 1,000.25
Interest:	<u>\$ 34.94</u>
Bank Balance:	\$38,007.63

Expenses

Bills:	<u>\$3,841.16</u>
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Bank Balance	\$34,166.47
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Organ Fund, no change

Opening Balance:	\$3,653.92
Balance as of Dec. 2021	\$3,653.92

In Memorial 2021

Lawrence Townes
Muriel Usher
Fay Frankcom
John Knuff
Keith Doan
Gary Priest

Submitted by Liz McKnight

Men's Club 2021

It was a very quiet year for the Men's Club. We did put new pads on the Defibrillator at a cost of approx. \$150.00. We assisted in the very successful Drive Thru Turkey Dinner in November.

That's all for the 2021 year.
Submitted by Allan Wright.

Ministry and Personnel Report 2021

With the ongoing issues of COVID 19, this team did not meet as frequently as in other years, but not to worry, as they are keeping on top of things!

Since the church was not in use from the beginning of the year until September 2021, we did not renew our custodians' contract. We are grateful for the devotion of the many years of service from Heather & Paul Toner. The cleaning of the church has since been done by volunteers and we are appreciative for the time that they are giving to us.

We are blessed to have such wonderful staff that is so committed and faithful to our church and church family.

If you ever have any questions in regard to our staff or about the M&P Committee, please feel free to contact one of these team members, who would be able to assist you.

Allan Wright, Rosemary Johnston, Sheila Jackson
Written by Beth Truax

Mission and Service Report for 2021

There is not much to report for this year as we have been closed since March. I just hope everyone is staying safe and Covid free. I was speaking to Ross, and he reported that we have collected \$3,325.00 for 2021. We would like to thank everyone for all the donations. We pray 2022 will bring us a better safer year and we can get back to our lunches and fun and games.

Bless all and keep safe from your M&S team.
Respectfully submitted by Chair Sandy Coe

Music Director's Report 2021

Looking back on my notes from 2021, it is hard to believe how much exciting Music Ministry we pulled off during 12 months of non-stop uncertainty. By the numbers, the choir rehearsed at least 50 times, mostly via Zoom. From the start of the year until October, when they returned to singing live for the first time in a year and a half, the choir recorded 20 anthems, along with many hymns and service-related music. Double Treble recorded 5 additional pieces over the year and (as a big surprise to many moms in the choir), children of the church secretly recorded an alternative version of the choir's schedule anthem for Mothers' Day.

Highlights chronologically included:

- **Feb. 21:** The pandemic-expanded "St. John's + Virtual Friends" choir recorded *Panis Angelicus*. Given my prior concern that we would not have adequate numbers to have a homogenous sound for the crucial tenor part in this ambitious piece, I was overjoyed to receive over 20 vocal recordings, including 7 tenor tracks from the men and pseudo-men of the choir.

- Mar. 14: The choir recorded my setting of Bach's *Sheep May Safely Graze*. It is nice to look back today on YouTube and see that it has been watched via 775 different internet IPs (locations) over the past 10 months.
- Holy Week Recording Marathon: For Holy Week 2021, the choir recorded *Now Enter Your Jerusalem* (a piece previously not available anywhere on the internet) and from the Messiah, *Behold the Lamb of God* and the *Hallelujah Chorus*. In addition, Double Treble recorded *Agnus Dei*, and in the sanctuary... for the first time in more than a year and with the piano newly tuned and serviced... David Graham recorded *How Beautiful*, and Karen Parnell recorded *I Know that my Redeemer Liveth*.

Easter Afterword: a month later, the choir won a UC national competition for their Easter recording of the *Hallelujah Chorus*. (Thus, explaining the shiny trophy now prominently displayed beside the piano).

- May 02: The choir recorded *O Love*, combined into a YouTube video by Fern with a lovely visual collage of the singers convincingly lip-syncing each of their performances from their homes.
- Jun. 20: Double Treble premiered a timely recording of *I Will Be a Child of Peace*, a piece the group had learned completely on Zoom and up to the time of recording, had not yet sung together.
- Jun. 28: The choir recorded *Heal Us Now*, featuring much gorgeous solo work by Karen (in Hebrew). Another piece learned entirely on Zoom and not yet sung in church together (except once during one of our outdoor parking lot rehearsals in late summer).
- Sep. 18: I was very excited to have an excuse for the choir to record my piece *And What of Wisdom* for the Martyrs Shrine. Many in the choir were even able to go to the shrine where Fern, Doug, and I spent a lovely Sep. day filming each singer "singing" their parts. The shrine folks were very appreciative.
- Thanksgiving: The choir recorded Bach's setting of *Now Thank We All Our God* which we gifted to the two UC churches my daughter and daughter-in-law were leading. Each church used our recording for their respective Thanksgiving services.
- Oct. 21: The choir returned to singing live at church, doing the gorgeous piece *I Choose Love* which Rev. Meg had asked us to learn earlier in the year. Even with masks and much social distancing... to have the choir back and singing... to my ears, they sounded incredibly good live!
- Nov. 27: For our first-ever *Walk to Bethlehem* open-house, the choir sang carols outside in the back parking lot, while Oliver, Abby and I played carols in various spots around the wonderfully decorated church.

- Dec. 05: By the second Sunday in Advent, our safety skills were such that the choir could pull off a reasonably complete Lessons and Carol Service. Again, it all sounded great, and the congregation seems very appreciative. Plus, it felt so hopeful to be doing something ambitious for Christmas again.
- Christmas Eve x2: Two services with much variation in music. The choir sang at the 4PM service while Karen and Greg provided special music for the 7PM service.
- Boxing Day: ... fell on a Sunday this year. To give Rev. Meg a well-deserved break, Cheryl, Rick and I did the service ourselves, including a trio rendition of *Good Duke Wenceslas*.
- For Jan. 02, 2022: The service anthem *A Carol of Hope* was pre-recorded. So, I am including in this 2021 report, being that most of the preparation and recording was completed before the start of the new year. Within a few days of the service, composer Don Besig had found the recording on YouTube and wrote me a lovely email, praising the quality of our rendition.

I could go on further, but hopefully the above gives a reasonable account of the year and provides some reasoning for why I am currently so hopeful and excited simply to have more of the same in 2022. I hope the above also justifies why I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to serve as music director at St. John's. With continued thanks and love to the 2021 "St. John's + Virtual Friends" Choir, Double Treble (+), Karen, Rev. Meg, Fern and the worship team.

Bob Bruer

Outreach and Publicity Report for 2021

During this strange year we have continued to host the Spirit Café each Wednesday morning via Zoom. In fact, we didn't even have a summer break. It has proven to be a great way to keep in touch with our church family and the community. We have a strong core group, and everyone is welcome. Contact Pam for more information.

In the summer we started Fund Scrip. The concept is to support the church by paying for your everyday expenses and gifts by using gift cards bought from Fund Scrip. Each purchase automatically includes a donation to the church. You are not out of pocket and can shop where you normally shop. Thanks to a few regulars, we will be able to donate approximately \$500 at year end. We will be campaigning in the New Year to encourage more supporters.

Who would have thought a few years ago, when we first discussed live streaming the Sunday services, where we would be today? All thanks to Fern whose knowledge and many, many volunteer hours have provided professional services to be brought into our homes every Sunday this year. She also looks after our website, Facebook page and any IT, AV problems. A full time job.

Our team of Fern Bianconi, Karen Turner, Krista Belrose, Susie Elliott, Kari Van Laarhoven, Rev. Meg and myself, Pam Erskine. We are always looking for new members. No experience needed!

Respectfully Submitted
Pam Erskine (Chair)

Praise Team 2021

The Praise Team was unable to meet to rehearse this year or take on any services. Although this has been heart wrenching, it has been impossible to have regular in person rehearsals and to provide the leadership required due to the amount of time and effort spent on weekly worship services. Luckily, Bob has been able to have Will and Greg participating in various services this fall and Christmas season. Their talent always adds the sparkle to worship services that we have missed so much. We pray that the coming year will provide the Praise Team the opportunity to be together and perform once more.

Forever glorifying his name with song,
Cheryl McGinnis

Property and Finance Report 2021

I have been greatly blessed with a wonderful team. We have all worked together for several years. They have quietly, effortlessly, and professionally addressed all the maintenance items. They know what needs to be done on both a monthly, seasonally and yearly basis, and just do it.

We have had very few meetings, due to Covid issues and peoples' work schedules. This is where their knowledge of what needs to be done and being self-starters has proved invaluable. Telephone calls and emails, and Karen's help in the office have been very helpful in keeping communication lines up to date and timely.

We were successful in applying for a government grant, which will prove helpful in the years to come.

Everyone sees the church building differently. The Sunday School teachers focus tends to be on the Sunday School room, mine is on the carpet in The Gathering Place. Every time I see a spill, I think of Jim Sommerville! Therefore, we are currently asking people to let myself or Ross Langman know of any repair work which you believe should be addressed. That list will become our "to do list".

Thank you to all the members of Property and Finance and to all the other members of our church family, who so willingly give of their time and talents to help us.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rosemary Johnston

Sunday School Report for 2021

During the fall months, Krista Belrose provided online Sunday School Lessons for the children. On December 12, 2021, the Sunday School presented a Christmas online performance of "The Grinch" for the Congregation. Once again, the children gave it their all and thanks goes to Melanie, Kari and Fern for their direction, production and computer skills.

Sunday School Financial Statement 2021

Bank Balance January 1, 2021,	\$2,644.28
Income	\$ 831.00
Expenses	\$461.27
Bank Balance December 31, 2021,	\$3,014.01

SON LIGHT SOLAR PROJECT 2021

	<u>Income for 2021</u>	<u>Expenses for 2021</u>
<u>Date</u>	<u>Hydro One Income for electricity produced</u>	
Jan.	344.86	Hydro One Charge 60.00
Mar.	699.34	2013 Solar Income = \$10,977
April	1,088.31	2014 Solar Income = \$10,100
May	1,102.75	2015 Solar Income = \$11,248
June	1,270.37	2016 Solar Income = \$11,384
July	1,184.55	2017 Solar Income = \$9,737
Aug.	1,103.55	2018 Solar Income = \$10,219
		2019 Solar Income = \$10,221
Sept.	1,166.11	2020 Solar Income = \$10,700
Oct.	1,029.77	
Nov.	630.37	2021 Solar Income = \$ 10,358.62
Dec.	<div style="border-top: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100%;">508.47</div> 10,358.62	

Trustees' Report 2021

2021 has been a very quiet year for the Trustees, with no meetings and nothing to report. We look forward to serving St. John's United in 2022.

Soul Sisters' 2021

Another report during Covid restrictions.

The Soul Sisters met for a couple of social distanced coffees in Heritage Park. 10 -14 ladies joined. Due to covid no monthly visiting was able to be done to our Church members who are in Nursing or Retirement homes. Finally, by Sept. in person visiting could resume, and was much appreciated. Some of our ladies stepped down from roles they had done so well over the years. New funeral lunch coordinator Beth, and Visiting coordinator is now Doreen. On Dec. 18 Christmas hampers were put together for some of the people of Sara Vista, and our members who we visit monthly.

Submitted by Soul Sisters' Coordinator Marianne Tomlinson

soul Sisters Financial Report 2021

Balance Forward			\$5,868.51
Income			
Banquets		375.00	
Donations		200.00	
Interest		2.99	
Total		\$577.99	
Expenses			
Food for meals		\$117.63	
Total		\$117.63	
Balance		\$6,328.87	
Minus funds held for accessibility		-\$ 2500.00	
Actual Balance			\$ 3,828.87

Worship Team Report 2021

The Worship Team has completed the year 2021, presenting online, live streamed and in-person services. By September, the team decided that we would return to fully livestreamed worship from the sanctuary rather than YouTube presentations into the future. These services have been well received and viewed in Canada and all around the world (see some stats following this report). Kudos and grateful thanks to this team and all our volunteers who have worked very hard with the technology team to provide thoughtful, high-quality services during these very challenging times. The huge number of volunteer hours dedicated to our church in so many capacities is staggering to think about.

The welcome has become a valued part of the service throughout the pandemic and continued through 2021. Rev. Meg has been tying the children's story time into her weekly message, often with a relevant picture book. Bob, Karen, and the choir have continued to produce wonderful music anthems which are a highlight of each service and quality has steadily become refined. Thank you to Melanie, Kari, and Fern for doing a wonderful job with the children's Christmas program. We also thank Krista Belrose for putting together Virtual Sunday School activities, but we realize that having a team to focus on children's Christian education is key.

We have worked closely to continue to keep our congregation informed during services with the welcome and by email, social media, phone calls, and through the Worshipping Word. We had been publishing the Worshipping Word weekly but by September, we decided that monthly handouts were more manageable for the team. We realize the importance of various forms of communication as congregants are at various ability levels to access technology.

During one of our summer meetings, Bob brought up the idea of hosting *A Walk to Bethlehem* during the Advent season. Bob felt that our congregation and the community may be looking for an opportunity to make a spiritual connection with a place of faith and the team enthusiastically agreed. We felt that this would be a wonderful way to reach out and have our congregation work together in a different way, while welcoming others to our beautiful sanctuary, decorated for the Advent season. There would also be music being played and sung by the choir inside and outside the church. We dreamt about having sheep outside, candlelight, as well as hot apple cider and pretty ornaments for guests to take home. We also hoped to catch Santa on a quiet day so he would be able to join us! The date was set for Saturday, November 27th between 2 and 5 p.m., on the first weekend of Advent. Covid numbers were increasing but we really wanted to host a successful community event where safety protocols were closely followed, and people would be safe and that is what happened. We had about 60 visitors guided through a designated path and although it was a lot of work to decorate many areas of the church, St. John's was truly beautiful. Bob, Abby, Oliver, Will, and Kari provided music in several rooms while Karen and the choir sang carols in the parking lot. Greg played music at the front of the church to invite the community in. The sheep, thanks to the Parnell's, were a big hit. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way, including greeting, decorating, guiding, role playing, music making, and those who visited. We feel that this is something that could have even more guests if done again.

We were thankful to have council pass the motion to purchase a new laptop and two new 70" televisions which have already enhanced our worship services. Our technology was getting older, and the projector had stopped working. Now we can bring our services to a whole new professional looking level. Thanks to everyone who helped in various ways to get this project installed and running so successfully.

We are hopeful for great things in 2022!
Yours in Christ, Krista Haidner and Cheryl McGinnis

YouTube Stats

Subscribers

March 2020 - 46 subscribers

December 2021 312 subscribers.

Top Videos of 2021

This Little Light of Mine – 2,074 views *wow!!!

Sheep May Safely Graze – 766 views

Arise Your Light Is Come – 424 views

Top Playlist of 2021

January 24th, 2021 – 672 views

May 2nd, 2021 – 651 views

April 4th, 2021 – 614 views


Top Live Streams of 2021

August 15th, 2021 & December 5th, 2021 – 116 views

September 19th & October 10th, 2021 – 100 views

August 29th, 2021 – 97 views

Viewers – YouTube Subscribers vs. Non-subscribers

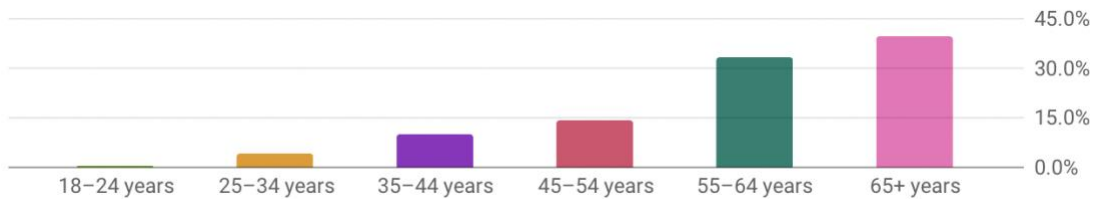
Subscription status		Views ↓
<input type="checkbox"/> Total		89,568
<input type="checkbox"/> Not subscribed		81,287 90.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribed		8,281 9.3%

Traffic Source

Traffic source > External		Views ↓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total		8,315	
<input type="checkbox"/> Google Search		3,089	37.2%
<input type="checkbox"/> Facebook		1,320	15.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> WhatsApp		276	3.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> Gmail		244	2.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> Yahoo Search		124	1.5%

Age of Viewers

Views by Viewer age ▼



Geography

Geography		Views ↓	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total		89,568	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada		27,717	31.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> United States		17,253	19.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom		3,403	3.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil		2,788	3.1%

St. John's Tech Team Report 2021

Members: Doug Jackson, Allan Wright, and Fernanda Bianconi.

The Tech Team at St. John's worked alongside the Worship Team and choir to provide meaningful and engaging services for the congregation and greater community.

Services from January to August were done in playlist format on YouTube. The technical portion required recording and editing to stitch together the content provided and then uploading it to YouTube each week.

In August the shift to livestreaming via our YouTube channel was made. Returning to in-person services/livestreaming was challenging for the Tech Team but with adjustments to our setup and technology, we were ready to go. That is, until the projector and laptop both decided to stop working.

A week before Christmas, the decision was made by council to purchase two televisions in the sanctuary and a new laptop. Upgrading the technology meant the Tech Team could now provide higher quality services to those participating in person or viewing worship from home. Although new technology means new learnings, we have already seen improvements in graphics and what can be presented on the clear screens.

Moving forward:

1. We hope to entice other members of the congregation to join our team to alleviate some of the pressure placed on the core team. Training will be provided.
2. We will hold information sessions at "coffee time", when that is again possible, to help folks with such things as how to find a favourite anthem or sermon from our YouTube collection and how to share a service with someone else.
3. We will need to invest in an improved sound system.
4. The outdoor sign will need to be replaced and/or removed as it is no longer functioning.

Technology is the key to our updated worship and allows people from around the world to see what is happening at St. John's United Church in Elmvale, Ontario, Canada.

St. John's United Church 2021 Finance Statement

SPECIAL FUNDS HELD WITHIN ST. JOHN'S BANK ACCOUNT				
	FUND BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
	Jan. 1 2021			Dec. 31 2021
Accessibility Fund	578.00			578.00
Building Repair Fund	5,183.88			5,183.88
Youth Group	778.33			778.33
Youth Ministry	2,984.36			2,984.36

GENERAL FUND

General fund Balance Jan. 1, 2021		30,048.10
RECEIPTS		
Numbered Envelopes	55,214.00	
PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)	31,669.50	
Loose Offering	206.70	
Church Use	5,082.00	
HST rebate	4,672.10	
Turkey Supper	5,721.54	
Other Income	20,000.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR GENERAL FUND	122,565.84	
Minus total Church Expenses	121,475.55	
2021 Income over expenses		1,090.29
Plus, Solar repayment from 2018		3,000.00
GENERAL FUND Balance Dec. 31,2021		34,138.39

St. John's United Church 2021 Expense Statement & 2022 Budget

	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL		
Salaries: Minister	57,540.00	58,921.00
Employment Costs	1,834.72	2,000.00
Auto Allowance	45.10	400.00
Continuing Ed. & Book Allowance	1,717.30	1,493.00
Telephone Allowance	480.00	480.00
Custodian	0	5,000.00
Church Administrator	2,800.00	8,600.00
EI CPP	150.94	475.00
Music Director	7,200.00	7,400.00
SUB TOTAL	71,768.06	84,769.00
FINANCE AND PROPERTY		
Church – Heat – Hydro – Water	7,197.34	8,000.00
Telephone & Internet	2,307.74	2,500.00
Repair & Maintenance – Church	21,592.65	2,000.00
Snow Removal	372.90	3,000.00
Insurance – Church	8,444.52	9,000.00
SUB TOTAL	39,915.15	24,500.00
Regional Dues	4,434.00	4,434.00
Office Post, Paper, Sundry	3,222.63	3,400.00
Miscellaneous Items	0.00	400.00
OUTREACH & PUBLICITY TEAM	101.70	400.00
WORSHIP TEAM	2,034.01	3,400.00
TOTAL	121,475.55	121,303.00

2022 Ministry Team

Minister:	Rev. Meg Jordan
Director of Music:	Bob Bruer
Church Administrator:	Karen Bryant
Custodians:	

Soul Sisters Representative	Marianne Tomlinson
Worship Team Chair	Cheryl McGinnis
Praise Team Leader	Cheryl McGinnis

2022 Council Executive

Coordinator	Rosemary Johnston
Vice Coordinator	Krista Belrose
Secretary	Pam Erskine
Board of Trustees Chair	Ken French
Sunday School Representative	Debbie Laycock
Memorial Team Chair	Liz McKnight
Men's Fellowship Group	Allan Wright
Ministry & Personnel Team Chair	Beth Truax
Mission & Service Team Chair	Sandy Coe
Outreach/Publicity Team Chair	Pam Erskine
Property & Finance Team Chair	Rosemary Johnston
Soul Sisters	Marianne Tomlinson
Treasurer	Ross Langman
Worship Team Chair	Cheryl McGinnis
Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Representative	Rosemary Johnston

Proposed 2022 Group and Team Membership

Accessibility Team

Pam Erskine
Susie Elliott
Krista Belrose - chair
Kathleen Kenney
Meg Jordan
Carrie Nesbitt
Jim Miller

Allenwood Cemetery Board

Ross Langman

Board of Trustees

Ken French - Chair
Jan Drinkill - Secretary
Doreen Turner
Dick Marshall
Ross Langman
Allan Wright
Rev. Meg – exofficio

Education Team

Allison Parnell
Karen Parnell

Memorial Team

Ross Langman
Liz McKnight
Muriel Townes
Jan Drinkill

Men's Fellowship Group

Allan Wright

Ministry & Personnel Team

Beth Truax - chair
Allan Wright
Sheila Jackson

Mission & Service

Sandy Coe - chair
Jan Drinkill
Marianne Tomlinson
Debbie Laycock
Liz McKnight (volunteer)
Allan Wright (co-treasurer)
Ross Langman (co-treasurer)

Outreach/Publicity Team

Pam Erskine
Fern Bianconi
Krista Belrose
Susie Elliott
Karen Turner
Robyn Sawyer
Kari VanLaarhoven

Praise Team

Marianne Tomlinson
Beth Truax
Don Kennedy
Greg Parnell
Will VanLaarhoven
Cheryl McGinnis

Property & Finance Team

Jan Drinkill
Ross Langman
John Parnell
Greg Parnell
Ken French
Allan Wright

Soul Sisters

Marianne Tomlinson

Worship Team

Rick Muller
Krista Haidner
Cheryl McGinnis
Carrie Nesbitt
Kathleen Kenney
Jan Drinkill (chancel steward)