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**OUR MISSION**

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE  
BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:

showing mercy,  
promoting justice,  
offering forgiveness,  
acceptance and hope.

~

# 2020 Annual Report



## **Our vision...**

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

**Everyone is welcome here.**

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

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## REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED AT TIME OF PUBLICATION

- Baptism Team (included in Spiritual Oversight Committee)
- Knox Sunday School (included in Spiritual Oversight Committee)
- Bible Fellowship Time
- SpiritSong
- Beacon House Interfaith Society
- Communication Committee
- Felicity Unit – UCW
- Time Out for Ladies
- Christian Men in Fellowship

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### Knox United Church

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR – BETH MARTIN  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

In January 2020, we had no idea of the magnitude of change and the challenges we would face as we were just starting to hear about COVID-19. It quickly became apparent that this year would cause us to reflect, to rely on each other and to have faith in ourselves, our community, our world, and always in our God.

We've had to learn new ways to practice our faith and have moved our church services to online through Facebook Live. Our meetings have moved to Zoom, our Pastoral Care team has made countless phone calls and provided comfort and lifted our spirits as we've missed seeing each other in person, the simple warmth expressed by a hug and the blessing of smiling across the room to each other. But through it all, God has guided our progression and we've pulled together as a congregation, driving change together for the better of Knox United Church. Reverend Sandra Cox has acted as our steady rudder in a year of storm, her passion and non-wavering faith have inspired me personally, and she provided our entire congregation with strength and grace as we faced COVID-19. Our Music Director, John Lindsay Botten, has kept our souls buoyed through his gift and selections of music, and our Office Administrator, Tracey Miller, has kept our office running smoothly in a very unsettling time. Thank you all!

Through the pandemic, some of our ministry has been very visible, as our Freedom Kitchen became a designated essential service providing a meal every Monday night to those living with food insecurity. We now deliver to 125 seniors/veterans in our local community and are serving on average to another 250 people from our building. As this need became more visible, so did the need for a more permanent way to serve this mission, and our Finance Committee has been responsible in sourcing over \$50,000 in grants, allowing us to build the new facility at the front of the church. We have been so fortunate to have the support of local government officials, Paul Russell – HRM Councillor, Steve Craig - MLA, Darrell Samson – MP, and the community support has been overwhelming! We are so very grateful for the monetary donations, the food donations, the gift of time from sports teams, local businesses, and so many more.

In the background, our Spiritual Oversight Committee has been figuring out how we can have a weekly church service and meet the various regulations necessary to keep us all safe. Our Property Committee has been working diligently to ensure our building is clean, and they conducted office renovations that provide a more welcoming and modern esthetic to our ministry team and to visitors. Our Trustees have been keeping up with the various programs available to offset some of the business costs related to COVID-19 and are continually assessing possible growth opportunities for the future.

I would like to thank the Council members for their commitment to the congregation. The Council is a group of Knox members with very diverse backgrounds, and they work diligently to navigate issues with the intent to create resolutions while leading us in a faith-filled direction.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Chair of Council this year. As we move forward, my hope is that each of us can prayerfully consider our congregation, continue to share our strengths, be Christ's hands as called even through uncertainty, and support the efforts of our church, our ministry team, elected council peers, and our community. I encourage you to read the various committee reports within the Annual Report. The work that Knox is doing in service to the Lord is inspiring. For all of you driving these efforts, thank you, and for those looking to get involved further...2021 looks like a great year!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Martin, Interim Chair*

**MINISTER'S REPORT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Dear Friends at Knox:

As the seasons, and 2020 has come and gone, we find ourselves moving forward in many different ways. We, here at Knox, are always looking for new ways to do God's work in our community. Often this creates change, and since change accompanies new ways, we accept the challenge, and the Spirit moves us forward into the future. The year 2020 was unlike any other year; and yet we persevered and we are still moving onward.

Even though we have been in crisis mode for most of 2020, still many things were accomplished. The church offices were completely overhauled and many wonderful improvements were made, thanks to property for all their hard work.

Our church family lost a number of dearly loved members in 2020, and they will be missed by everyone.

Throughout the covid-19 pandemic, our church family held together. For that, I am very grateful. Our services went well, and our *Christmas season was very successful*. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Looking into our future, Knox has certainly taken on some forward-thinking initiatives over the past year and because of these recent projects, a huge impact has been made on our community and its people. With Rainie Murphy spearheading Freedom Kitchen and Closet along with Beth Martin, on average our volunteers feed 320 people per week. Over the past year there have been 18,216 meals served. This huge endeavour takes many hands. "Sackville Helping Sackville" really speaks volumes. Many thanks to everyone involved.

The last full in person Sunday worship service was held here at Knox on March 15<sup>th</sup>, and it was a very important event. At our 10:30 service, which included special guests from Affirm United, other affirming congregations, and the Indigenous community, Knox United Church became a fully affirming congregation. This occasion was one of the highlights of my years in ministry.

What I have observed here and have come to honour is a community dedicated and committed to serving and caring for all people in this area. It takes commitment and many hands to do all this work and sincere thanks go out to everyone who works in each of our ministries.

I just want to say that our church family is like any family; there are many needs, and things do not just happen. There are those who offer their expertise in many ways: There are communications to be sent out, there are financial matters to attend to, there are property issues, which are addressed by the Property Committee and the Trustees, and there is a Church Council and a Spiritual Oversight Committee working to keep our church running smoothly. There is a Worship Team, Baptismal Team, Funeral Visitation Team, Ways and Means, all which coordinate worship services and events. The Outreach and Fellowship Committees reach out to our community. The Ministry and Personnel Committee supports staff and congregation. Our Pastoral Care Committee attends to the spiritual side of our needs. Our representatives to Regional Council continue in our best interest. The Nominating Committee finds those who wish to serve, the archivist keeps our records secure, and our flower arranger and Decorating Committee attend to the beauty of the sanctuary. Our music program is the best; our choir members share their talents with us when permitted and the music leadership of John Lindsay-Botten is much appreciated by everyone.

Services moved into adjustment mode as we moved to online technology in order to include all of our congregation and community. With help from Tracey Miller, John Lindsay-Botten and Ted McIlDoon and many others, we kept working through the pandemic, and we survived until we can meet again.

Our Governance Model was revisited, revised and accepted by the Church Council. Our Governance Team did a wonderful job updating our governance.

The Faith Profile Team worked on our faith story for the upcoming move in ministry. The Faith Profile document was pass by Council, and we are ready to move forward.

There are many people to whom I owe my heartfelt thanks; those who helped me in the beginning and who continue to do so with love and support. The staff at Knox has been outstanding in their combined effort to help me in my ministry. Tracey Miller and John Lindsay-Botten have offered so much in their expertise, and I appreciate their help wholeheartedly, throughout 2020 we worked as a team, and moved ahead through many challenges

All the best to everyone at Knox, and may God bless us as we move forward in 2021.

*In Christ's service with you,  
Rev. Sandra Cox*

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#### **SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The role of the Spiritual Oversight Committee at Knox United Church (in conjunction with the minister) is to exercise leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life and interests of the congregation and to formulate policies pertinent to the many areas related to the total worship experience.

The Spiritual Oversight Committee is presently made up of 19 Elders, many of whom are part of smaller, more specific teams. These teams include: Worship, Pastoral Care, Baptism, Communion, Memorial, New Families, Sunday School, Visitation, and the Funeral Wake Team. To describe the responsibilities of each of these teams adequately would take much more space than is allotted for this Annual Report. While the Spiritual Oversight Committee met in-person on the third Tuesday of January and February, with the onset of COVID-19 mid-March, meetings were temporarily suspended but continued virtually via ZOOM in September, October and November. Each of the various teams also met on a regular basis throughout the year.

To say that 2020 was epic would be a fantastic understatement. This year was both the very best and the very worst - for everything – horrible tragedy one minute and awe-inspiring grace, beauty and care the next. We began the year striving to define who we are as a congregation, discerning our path forward in ministry. This dialogue initially progressed through the hard work of Knox's Futures Teams and continued its evolution through to the work of the Faith Profile Team at year end. Amidst these efforts, another dedicated team prayerfully crafted a modern update of Knox's Model of Governance and terms of reference, as framed by the new United Church Policy Manual. In a historic vote on November 24, 2019, Knox covenanted to become an Affirming Community of Faith. A Celebration of this Affirmation was held on March 15, 2020, when Knox joyfully declared, "All are welcome in this place, all are welcome by God's grace!" Then COVID-19 hit, and our sanctuary was closed for in-person worship. Virtual services continued via live streaming or advance recording. With careful preparation,

and strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols, we briefly returned to preregistered in-person worship on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and closed again for the month of December, when COVID-19 resurged.

With regret, we said goodbye this year to one of our beloved long-serving Elders – Linda Hefler – whose 40 years of service to all in our Faith Community was, and still is, a blessing. Elder Max Martin stepped down to focus on his theological studies at the Atlantic School of Theology, while Elder Sandra Braye still serves but has taken a leave of absence.

Reverend Sandra Cox continues to answer and faithfully serve the Interim Ministry Call of Knox United Church, where she is a rich blessing of hope, joy and love to all in our Faith Community. May God continue to guide and watch over her service to this pastoral charge.

Max Martin, confirmed as a Candidate for Ordination in the spring of 2018, continued to study in 2020 at the Atlantic School of Theology, where he is now in his second year of divinity studies. SOC recognizes and celebrates Max's success on his path to ministry. Since Knox was not certified as a Learning Site for 2020, the opportunity to mentor another student minister was not offered this year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and UCC policy, there were no baptisms, confirmations, or transfers of membership in 2020.

On September 19, 2020, the wedding of Katelyn Dempsey and Andrew McAloney was celebrated off-site. Knox wishes them the very best in their future together.

Funerals and Life Memorials were commemorated at Knox United Church, including the following: Marion McCormack (January 10th), Maureen Brown (January 26th), Lucy Freake (April 26th), Dick Rudback (May 29th), Shirley Mollison (June 17th), Angie MacRae (November 5th), and Ron Parker (November 7th). May God bless them with the Peace of Christ and continue to hold both their families and loved ones close in His love.

For Knox, 2020 was a year for remembering, for drawing us close together and celebrating family (of all shapes and sizes), and all of the differences that make each of us so special in God's sight. We remember and hold close to our hearts the families and loved ones impacted by violence, tragedy and COVID-19 in this past year. On Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Sandra Cox and our Pastoral Care Team led an online vigil, "In Remembrance", for all.

The Sacrament of Communion was celebrated February 26<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday, in person), March 1<sup>st</sup> (Lent, in person), April 9<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday, livestreamed), April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter, live-streamed), October 4th (Worldwide Communion Sunday, in person), November 29th (Reign of Christ Sunday, livestreamed) and prerecorded for December 24 (Christmas Eve). Following COVID-19 protocols, home communion was mostly observed virtually, and offered to congregants unable to connect to virtual services, on request.

With limits on summer gatherings, we were unable to hold outdoor services in Acadia Park. When restrictions ease, we look forward to holding future services there.

Knox's Communications Team continued to livestream and help us prerecord our worship services. This is an amazing ministry! We have so many families worldwide, each Sunday, watching and worshipping with us.

Listed below are some of the many things that made Knox such an extraordinary place in 2020, for which we give our profound thanks:

- Rev. Sandra Cox, Brian Botten, Rev. Bob Chapman, Bill Hale, and Rev. David Hart who provided worship leadership over several services this year; and, to John Lindsay-Botten, for his talented musical ministry in our Sunday services.
- Our entire Pastoral Care Team for their unflagging and heartfelt work in ministering to all in our faith community during this especially difficult year, whether in hospital, our local nursing homes, or at home. The worship services prerecorded for both Sagewood and Ivy Meadows Nursing Homes were a delight for all who watched them. The personal phone calls and Christmas cards delivered were particularly well received, since many residents especially now cannot go out and do not have regular visitors. Special thanks to Freedom Kitchen for their donation of a number of gift bags for our seniors – they were very much appreciated. And, the prayers of our ever-listening and compassionate Prayer Chain Team lifted us all up, and kept us going through thick and thin.
- Lynn Stewart for continuing in her role as Superintendent of our Sunday School. Assisted by Jennifer Mahaney and Jennifer Williams as teachers, they expertly taught an engaging Sunday morning curriculum based on the 'GO' Project, until the COVID-19 shutdown followed our Affirmation Sunday. It was God centered, Bible driven, easy to use, fun, interactive, and family focused. For Advent, Lynn and her team created activity packages, to bring the love and joy of Christmas into the homes of our young families. A big note of appreciation goes out to Reverend Sandra Cox for her care in creating a special time and place for our children to worship and 'get to know' God. Her Wednesday 'Children's Time' broadcasts were a hit! Thank you also to Holly and Rainie Murphy, for guiding and supporting our young faith learners in the first few months of this year. We are so blessed to have such creative talent at Knox!
- On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Longest Night service was livestreamed by our Pastoral Care Team, and an unlisted YouTube video for this service was included in the weekly email blast in the previous week. Our 'Old Fashioned' Christmas Eve service with communion was prerecorded this year, as well as a separate Christmas Eve service just for our children. Special thanks to our Worship Team, and to all of the talented spiritual animators and musicians with whom, in Christ, our services were made rich with 'comfort and joy'.

The Spiritual Oversight Committee is thankful to have been able to work with such a dedicated team of caring people in 2020. They include:

- Rev. Sandra Cox (Minister)
- Rev. Bob Chapman (Minister Emeritus)
- John Lindsay-Botten (Music Director)
- Don MacRae (Music Director Emeritus)
- Tracey Miller (Church Office Administrator)

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Nancy Kent, Chair*

**WORSHIP TEAM  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The Worship Team meets once a month or less from January to May and from September to December, depending upon issues pending. The Team is made up of the following members: Angie MacRae (Chair), Rev. Sandra Cox, Vanessa Voerman, Florence Carman, Pat Galbraith, Dale Fleming, Carolyn Silver-Crouse, John Lindsay-Botten, and Gardia Voerman. We were all very saddened in October when Angie MacRae died, may she rest in peace. Rev. Sandra, who had been acting as chair throughout Angie's illness, carried on as chair for the rest of the year. We plan to choose a new chair in January.

The Team meets to plan the services in cooperation with the minister; in particular, special services such as those pertaining to Easter, Thanksgiving, the church's anniversary, and Christmas. Members of the team often take part in these special services. At our meetings, we do not make specific decisions on all matters, but sometimes we make recommendations to the Spiritual Oversight Committee, perhaps to adopt a certain procedure or course of action.

Our meeting in September was held in person in the boardroom. According to the guidelines as outlined by the Nova Scotia Health Authority, we were all masked and separated by at least two meters. However, since then our meetings have been conducted from our various homes by Zoom. This has worked out well and we shall continue to do this until such time as the protocol is lifted.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gardia Voerman, Secretary*

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**PASTORAL CARE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

In the Book of Ecclesiastes 4: 8-12, the author talks about the value of a friend. Verse 9: "Two are better than one...", and verses 10-12 go on to say that when one falls during a difficult time, another provides comfort and support. Throughout life, we all face times of struggling. This may be an illness, it may be coping with the loss of a loved one, it may be times of great loneliness or times of uncertainty. Bearing these burdens alone can be overwhelming for even the strongest of individuals.

Knox is blessed currently with Rev. Sandra Cox, who is truly amazing, compassionate, empathetic, and competently skilled at connecting with people of all ages. She spends a great deal of her time providing pastoral care, support, counselling and encouragement to those in need. The Pastoral Care Team – a group of committed ladies and gentlemen from Knox - are there to offer support. What these individuals may lack in academic credentials for counselling, they make up for it with an honest and sincere desire to be "present" in whatever ways they can to support those who are struggling with life's challenges.

The year 2020 was difficult for us all. One day we were living our lives normally and suddenly, due to covid 19, things were changing daily, and before we knew it we were in lockdown. Worship services moved online, church activities were cancelled, and home, hospital and nursing home visits were no longer possible. Rev. Sandra and our team were concerned about the members of our church family, especially those who live alone, so we reached out by phone to them and others to let them know that their church was thinking of them, and the calls are ongoing.

At Christmas, cards were sent to many of our seniors, and some gifts - given to us by Freedom Kitchen - were hand delivered, another way of letting people know we care. Get well cards, sympathy cards, and cards of congratulations were also sent during the year.

In December we recorded a special Christmas service with familiar carols and a short message for the residents at Ivy Meadows and Sagewood. Staff at the facilities were then able to show the service on their TV with a small group, or individually on an iPad.

A Longest Night service was livestreamed on December 21st. The team has cooperated with the minister for many years to offer this reflective service of hope.

Grief support was offered through telephone conversations and in-person meetings of two, with physical distancing observed.

The Prayer Chain has been active during the pandemic, and this dedicated group continues to pray for members of our congregation and for others in the wider community. Audiotapes of the Sunday services are still delivered on request, and an audio version is posted on the website for those who may not have Facebook.

Prayer shawls are given to those who are ill or suffering loss, and knitted teddy bears are available for children who are sick or facing a difficult time.

We were very sad at the end of October when we lost Angie MacRae, a faithful and dedicated member of our team. Angie was a volunteer visitor at Ivy Meadows for several years, reading to residents on a one-to-one basis. She worked patiently with one of the residents who had never learned to read, teaching her to read simple sentences and giving her a real sense of achievement. Angie also participated regularly in the services at Ivy Meadows and Sagewood where she loved to read the scripture lesson. We are thankful to have known Angie and we will really miss her.

Thank you to Rev. Sandra and the members of our team who continue to share love, compassion, time, and talents to serve the Knox Church Family. We pray that everyone will stay safe and well, and we ask for God's blessing as we continue to offer pastoral care in our church and community.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Hayes and Olive McIlldoon  
Pastoral Care Team Leads*

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## **YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

It has been a crazy year at Knox, and the Youth Group certainly had to make some changes. Everyone was required to wear masks, had to sanitize when they entered, and if they could high five each other, they had to spread out. We made sure to gather safely, and respected whatever provincial restrictions were in place when we did. We tried meeting outdoors at locations like Acadia Park, but the sun quickly set too early for that to be a feasible plan.

There were some other, less drastic changes that came into effect this year. Due to new work commitments, Jen Babineau had to step down as Co-Leader. However, Taylor Hauswirth was more than

happy to rise to the occasion and take over Jen's role. In an effort to retain our older youth, we raised the minimum age to 11. This kept the age gap from spreading too far, and allowed our younger members who joined last year at 10 to continue attending.

We couldn't always meet in person, so last summer, and a few times this fall we met with the youth virtually. They were always excited to see each other, but as leaders, we didn't find the format as effective. It was harder to find engaging activities, and while they were in school, Youth Group was just more screen time. We still managed to hit a few home runs with projects like the virtual gingerbread decorating party we had before Christmas.

Thanks to a bequest dedicated to youth programs from Lucy Freake, we started a renovation project in the youth group room this year, and things started off strong. We got all of the old furniture out with the help of some awesome volunteers and the Property Committee, and painted the walls. We even managed to get some new furniture back into the room before the pandemic took over again, and things had to come to a halt.

We're not sure what the future has in store for the Knox Rox Youth Group, but we are definitely looking forward to making the most of it!

*Respectfully submitted,  
James O'Connell*

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## **MINISTRY OF MUSIC ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Well, 2020 certainly provided challenges, what with COVID and health protocols demanding a different approach to worship around Knox Sackville (as well as everywhere else). We met them as best we could. Our choir practices resumed on Wednesday evenings after a Christmas '19 break, and we were supporting worship from the loft through our last Sunday in-person service on March 15th, when we officially celebrated becoming an Affirming congregation. I remember debuting a specific selection as Ministry of Music that Sunday (planned for inclusion again in 2021) and receiving a lovely white tie adorned with six music notes, each in a separate colour of the Pride flag, lovingly made by Dianne Levy.

I was thankful to have the forethought to record a worship service for the following Sunday, March 22, as it was decided with the pandemic to cancel further in-person worship, and we weren't sure what would happen going forward. I wish to thank Rainie Murphy for assistance with recording/livestreaming early on, and then Beth Martin and Katherine Cassidy for doing so at later times. Thank you to McIldoon for all your audio assistance in recording, set up, etc., too.

As allowances came back to Nova Scotians during the course of the pandemic, we were able to pre-record for worship some guests who offered of their time, such as Kelsey Fletcher, Lara Fawthrop, Michael Butz (also for the recording-studio aspect on occasion), especially when pulpit supply Brian Botten (yes, my uncle) utilized "Live Like You Were Dying" as his sermon title. Thanks, here, to cohorts Michael, Kelsey, and Angelos Caffetos for the guitar solo. It was a highlight of our musical offering at Knox, when a choir wasn't possible.

I was glad (as was Sandra) to have musical assistance from Tony Mombourquette (on guitar and vocals) and other choir members as individuals, one-to-a-mike; first as one assistant at a time, then as many as three or four others, especially around the Christmas season, with prerecording worship. The

harmonies in the carols were still intact, though almost everyone felt it couldn't match the feeling you get on Christmas Eve when, side by side, you're lighting candles as the overhead lights turn off and you sing "Silent Night". That being stated, I'd like to recognize Gardia Voerman, Vanessa Voerman, Pat Galbraith, Pat Nursey, Dave Duggan, Gail Miner, John Butler, Quinn Acker-Canning, Jamin Babineau, Nancy Kent, Katie Kent, Jennifer Williams and others (I know I'm forgetting at least one or two) for assisting musically, as well as for reading scripture on occasion when called upon. Seeing or hearing various faces and voices is a blessing when you can't be all together as you're used to.

As far as events go, we once again held a coffee house/open mike in conjunction with Sackville Snow Days and hosted another on March 13th with a Celtic theme to it, featuring Dana-Lynn Farrell, Mark Flowerdew and Innapinch. It was to be our last musical event, as it turned out, until December, spoken of below. Bookings for a mid-April coffee house of sorts, plus engagements planned around performances/worship by The Message, the Halifax Pop Singers (directed by Paul Simons) in the spring and other planned events (which we hope to rebook in 2022, if not the fall of 2021) featuring Barra MacNeils and Dancing Queen (the Halifax Abba Tribute Band).

One thing that did play out (by request of Rev Sandra) was an East Coast Carolling Virtual Christmas concert and carol sing. We ended up selling 19 tickets at \$20.00 each. As the founder and director of East Coast Carolling, I decided to reduce my usual rate from \$400.00 to \$300.00 when I heard back after the performance that some people ended up getting kicked out of the Zoom session between the 30- and 40-minute mark and couldn't get back in. I certainly felt deflated by that, as I wasn't checking messages during our presentation, and I apologize for that. (Ted informed me when it occurred by text, watching from home.) We have learned from this event, and going forward, should we do something else from the sanctuary, for livestreaming or prerecording, 1) a fifth person - whether a volunteer or not - should be on board to help monitor from a computer; 2) we are to still utilize microphones when speaking between selections, as we would do during live performances in the sanctuary; and 3) \$20.00 may be too much to ask for a ticketed event like this one, unfortunately. A donation button may be a better way to go with regard to livestreamed or prerecorded events.

Another former choir member passed away in 2020 - tenor Ron Parker -and I was grateful to have been his choir director for even a small portion of his long musical life.

Personal highlights for this very different year include the use of my new musical setting of The Lord's Prayer on occasion during Knox worship, as well as being involved with the Socially-Distanced chamber choir put together at St. Andrew's United (remember when we initially reduced to maximum of ten people at a gathering in mid-March?), utilizing my "Where Two or Three Are Gathered", among others, as Ministry of Music selections early on, so that Knox folk, in part, could still hear harmonies in worship. I was glad to know that we could continue to offer meaningful worship to Knox congregants (near and far!) in spite of the pandemic. I also enjoyed putting together the Christmas Eve services, including a take on Voices United 56, "The Friendly Beasts" for one service, and composing "Just Christmas" to work in to the other.

Peace and Light and Spirits Bright,

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Lindsay-Botten,  
Minister of Music*

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**Contribution to Knox Ministry:**

We are a committee of Knox United Church called into “Christian Fellowship with one another as a means of fellowship with God”.

Our main functions are:

- Arrange for Sunday morning greeters
- Organize the schedule for tea and coffee for the 10:30 services – we host on the second and fourth Sundays of every month, and on the fifth Sunday if applicable.
- Interact with congregational members and visitors
- Organize use and storage of name tags
- Host hospitality events such as:
  - Music concerts
  - Annual confirmands’ pot luck supper
- Assist other committees for special functions

This has been a unique and challenging year since the beginning of the Covid 19 outbreak. I was asked by SOC Chair, Nancy Kent, to compile and organize a list of greeters and escorts during the months of October and November while a modified version of our services began. However, due to health and safety concerns, Public Health mandated the closure of church gatherings thereafter. It also proved to be a challenge in that many of our usual members did not wish to attend church, fearing the possibility of exposure despite the protocols we had in place.

Our aim is to strive to continue to work in Christ’s service with prayerful support from our minister, congregation, and all other members of the various committees of Knox. We also take pride in continuing to promote fellowship and friendship among our congregational members.

Our committee has grieved the passing of our dear friend, Dick Rudback, and the understandable necessity for his beloved wife Kay to step down as a member due to health issues. They were both unwavering in their commitment to the Fellowship Committee and the love they showed toward our congregation. They will be sorely missed.

We are a small group and would welcome new members to join our dynamic group of individuals. Please feel free to contact me at (902) 865-5512 or any member of our committee should you be interested.

*Respectfully submitted in Christ’s service  
Janet Mombourquette, Chair*

## **Outreach Committee Annual Report 2020**

Our committee of nine members met twice throughout 2020 on the first Monday of the month in the parlour. Since closing due to Covid, we have communicated through email.

Despite the challenges presented during 2020, we were able to:

- Donate monetarily to St. Vincent de Paul.
- Transfer funds to the Knox Benevolent Fund due to the high demand for financial assistance during Covid.
- Collect and deliver personal care items to Shelter Nova Scotia.
- Collect 200 boxes of cereal for Beacon House Interfaith Society. We also raised awareness of the needs at Beacon House and did a fall blitz for non perishables.
- Collect 100 boxes of pancake mix for Christmas hampers.
- Collect mitts, hats, socks and scarves and distributed them to Brunswick Street Mission, Hillside Park, Sycamore Lane, Sackville Heights, Beaver Bank-Kinsac Elementary Schools, Knox Preschool, Beaver Bank-Kinsac Children's Centre, First Friends Day Care, Shelter Nova Scotia, Boys and Girls Club Sackville, Beacon House Food Bank, Adsum House, and to several families who were in need in the community. No drop off to the library and Den due to closure.
- Provid 18 dozen muffins to the Breakfast Program at Sycamore Lane Elementary in November and December, and this will continue into 2021 until the end of the school year. This provides a muffin to every child in the school. It's a real treat and greatly appreciated by the children and staff. Thanks so much to the congregation members and community helpers for making this possible.
- Sort and deliver White Gifts to the Sackville Heights Community Center for the Christmas Cheer Program.
- Sort and deliver Pink Gifts to Adsum House.
- Collect glasses for the Lions Club to distribute in Third World Countries.
- Help at the annual Pancake Supper in February assisted by the Youth Group.

Wayne Bambury is our representative on the Beacon House Board. He keeps Knox informed of any needs that arise and of any changes taking place with this organization. He and Doris also pick up donations from the box in the narthex and deliver them to Beacon House regularly. We are still accepting donations for Beacon House, so please feel free to drop off non-perishable goods on the days that the church office is opened.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL EVENT (C.O.M.E.)**

The goal of this ministry is to provide a free meal, on the third Thursday of every month except for August. This meal is for anyone, all are welcome, no questions asked.

Due to Covid and Public Health restrictions, C.O.M.E only served two monthly meals before social gatherings were not permitted after mid-March 2020.

Presently several churches have agreed to make soup for the warming center as needed.

Freedom Kitchen celebrated its one-year anniversary on October 7, 2020. The report for the \$4,000.00 grant from HRM will be submitted by May of 2021. Rainie Murphy is coordinating this outreach project with the support of a number of community volunteers. Please see Rainie's report for details.

Lastly, I want to thank the Knox faith family, the nine churches that make up the C.O.M.E. Planning Committee, the Outreach Committee and the community of Sackville and area for their continued support. My heart is in this ministry and I pray that we will be able to resume God's work in the community when it is safe.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline Gallop, Chair*

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## **Freedom Kitchen Annual Report 2020**

Freedom Kitchen had a remarkably successful year yet again. We have now moved into our second year of operating and many things have changed.

January: A lovely lady reached out to us to offer delivery service to seniors, veterans, and disabled folks who could not leave their home or who had no transportation. This service quickly expanded as everything seems to at Freedom Kitchen! We had put a call out for delivery drivers, and before we knew it, we had four teams: Yvonne and her husband Dave, Heather and her son Cohan, Roxanne and her two children Cassidy and David, as well as Beth and Michelle. These drivers did switch up a few times as we lost Roxanne in mid-March, and Beth's route stopped. We now have now a stable team of the following: Heather and Cohan, Michelle and Mary, Yvonne and Dave, Dale and Gary. We started our deliveries with 24 homes, and thanks to Meals on Wheels as well as some community nominations, we are now delivering a steady 125 meals each Monday.

Also, in January, Gary Shea from Cars R Us offered his business as a local drop-off centre for our food donations. Each Monday we would stop in to pick up food donations and we would fill a carload every week. Their food drives were extremely helpful in our success and in keeping our costs down.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> Cobs Bread (new in town) invited us to come and collect their end-of-day givings every Saturday. We would then take lots of bread and sweets back to the church, bag it up, and on Mondays take it over to the library where we would offer it for free. Everyone would help themselves to what they needed.

We also started a McDonald's card giveaway. Many folks from the community would take their filled cards and donate them to struggling folks at Freedom Kitchen. In the first month we collected 493 cards; to date we have collected 1345 cards to hand out. We discovered that by giving a homeless person one of these cards, we are not only giving them a free coffee, we are giving them a place to get warm and freshen up.

Thanks to the advice of a young man at the Den in the library building, we started a shoebox program, where folks can discreetly ask for food help and then walk away with a shoebox full of food. This is less embarrassing for the youth in our community as their friends would think they just got a new pair of sneakers. This program was remarkably successful in giving out 578 boxes to date.

Fast forward to March 10<sup>th</sup> when we received a call from The Salvation Army. As Covid-19 was here and spreading fast, the Salvation Army had to pull their mobile food truck from Freedom Kitchen. They were needed at the local pop-up shelters daily and they could not accommodate both. We scrambled to find a replacement as there were people who were struggling and needed us now more than ever. Nina from The Fully Loaded Jacket Potato reached out to us and offered her truck. She saved the day as we were able to continue our mission as Jesus' disciples and ensure that people did not go hungry. On March 16<sup>th</sup>,

we served 311 meals and gave out 120 food hampers. Big Erics showed up with six cases of individual toilet paper and we were able to hand out three cases of 100 rolls. There had been a shortage in the city. Cars R Us set up an outdoor drop box to collect food donations for us during these times, as well as a monetary drop box for those who did not want to go into the stores.

In April we started collecting reusable masks for individuals who could not afford them. We collected and handed out over 2000 masks in the community. We also started taking our leftovers at the end of the night to the pop-up shelters as lunches for the people there. We were able to provide each of them with a brand new pair of sneakers. Some said it was their first-ever pair of brand-new sneakers and some said it was the Christmas they never had before. Also in April, we teamed up with Sweeter Things, a local bakery, and we started the Blooms of Hope project. Crystal baked and decorated 500 cookies each week, Dianne Levy bagged, tagged, and ribboned each cookie. Then these cookies were delivered to first responders, frontline staff, and many places of business still in operation. In response to the biggest mass murder in the country, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> we delivered 60 bottles of water, 60 Gatorades, 120 snack packs, 60 Blooms of Hope from our cookie program, and some fresh fruit to the first responders at the scene. Also, our own Fred Gallop delivered some Blooms of Hope cookies to a few RCMP dispatch offices to shine some hope to them during these difficult times.

In May we received 10,000 lbs of PEI potatoes from the Salvation Army, and we were able to open our doors and offer 10-pound bags of potatoes to those in need in Lower Sackville. Many folks were beyond grateful. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we moved our whole operation to the front side of Knox United Church to save the extra trips required to transport everything to the library, which was closed anyway due to the pandemic.

In June we received a call from Nova Church which had a local connection to Sysco. We received all their overstock and were able to open our doors at Knox, handing out free lettuce, vegetables, and sweets for the next three months to anyone in need!

In early August we were approved by the Beacon House Interfaith Society to help them with their back-to-school backpack drive, as they had reached out to the community many times without response. We agreed and started the Back-to-School drive. Receiving many items daily, we were able to fill 1290 backpacks. Beacon House was able to hand them out to families in need in the greater HRM area, and being an official society they were able to ensure each person received these for their registered children. On August 11<sup>th</sup> we reached the milestone of 10,000 meals served. We celebrated with the whole community, serving chili, cupcakes, chips and so much more! At the end of August we took a two-week break to evaluate our year and to enable all our volunteers to get a well-deserved break.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> Jana Picot reached out to us to sponsor and serve a meal to honour her son Andrew Picot's life, not to mourn him. There is now a picnic table in his name, and within a week Jana had raised enough to sponsor meals for three months. We got to work trying to do something special for them that following week. With lots of people involved and a segment on CTV, and with the help of Councillor Paul Russell and Mayor Mike Savage, we were able to declare the following Monday Andrew Picot Day in Nova Scotia. Paul was able to present this honour on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, when the Picot family cooked and served the greater community with help from Andrew's teammates and past coaches. Andrew, who played for the Sackville Blazers Junior B Hockey Team, was killed in a single-vehicle motorcycle crash in July 2019.

We registered with Second Harvest this past October and received overstocked items, sweets and food that they could no longer serve. We have rescued \$26,272 worth of food this year and in three months

averted 9,224 kg of greenhouse gases from the landfill (this is equivalent to the carbon used by 12 acres of trees in one year!)

This past December we took on another program - Adopt a Senior. Folks would purchase a gift for a female or a male and we would deliver the gifts during our Christmas meal delivery. We asked the community for 125 gifts, but by the end of the pickups we had received 1259 gifts. As a result, we were able to cover our seniors as well as the local senior homes, the Rehab Centre, the Hospice, St. Vincent Guest House, and local seniors from Knox who would be alone for Christmas. Our Christmas this year was a huge success, having served 480 meals - our biggest to date.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rainie Murphy, Chair  
(with Holly Murphy)*

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**FELICITY UNIT – KNOX UNITED CHURCH WOMEN  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Our membership stands at 11 active members and 2 inactive members. Two meetings were held in 2020 with an average attendance of 7. We were greatly saddened by the passing of one of our members, Marion McCormack. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our meetings were discontinued in March, 2020.

We had two Turkey Soup Luncheons. We would like to thank anyone who contributed in any way to this fundraiser because without you we would not be able to accomplish it.

There was no Candlelight Service this year due to the pandemic.

Two members attended the World Day of Prayer Service held at St. John Vianney in March, 2020.

Three members attended the UCW Annual General Meeting at St. John's Church in Fall River on February 29, 2020.

There was an election of officer with the executive remaining the same. Janice Newhook – President; Anne Hache – Treasurer; Edna O'Reilly – Secretary.

**DONATIONS**

\$150.00 to Region 15.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Edna O'Reilly, Secretary*

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**MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The year 2020 was a challenge for everybody. Once the Covid-19 lockdown happened, Rev. Sandra Cox, John Lindsay-Botten, and Tracey Miller all did a great job in keeping us informed. Sunday services

conducted online helped give us spiritual connection, and information through emails and Facebook kept us up to date through the troubling times. We are grateful to all our wonderful staff.

We would also like to thank the Property Committee for renovating the offices with new lighting, new flooring, and all the rooms freshly painted. It looks great!

The Ministry and Personnel Committee currently have four members: Heather Robinson, Paul O'Brien, Beth Robinson, and Gardia Voerman. We would appreciate having at least three more members; please contact the office or anyone on the committee if you think this would be of interest to you.

This committee by nature is confidential and, therefore, no specifics are reported. Any concerns from staff or the congregation are treated privately. Staff reviews are conducted annually, usually beginning in March.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Robinson, Chair*

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#### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The Property Management Committee is responsible for coordinating the use and the maintenance of the grounds, the Knox Church complex, and its furnishings.

#### **Projects completed at Knox in 2020 include:**

- The basement washrooms were painted, and four new sinks and taps were installed at no cost to Knox.
- The boardroom, Cann Hall, kitchen, and youth room floors were stripped and waxed by Anthony at Jan-Pro cleaners.
- Youth Group room walls were newly painted, and new furniture was purchased. Thanks to James O'Connell.
- Toilet tissue and paper towel dispensers are being replaced in all washrooms in the building. All dispensers were donated free by Swish in Burnside.
- To help save on the water bill at Knox, new flappers are being installed in all the toilet tanks.
- Office renovations were completed: new laminate floors, new LED lights, walls painted, and a new server cabinet was built and installed in the middle office. Thanks to Fred Gallop for finding this grant.
- New tiles have been replaced on the new tile floor in the Cann Hall.
- The entire Knox building was treated with Enviroshield (fogged). Thanks to Anthony at Jan-Pro.
- A new loft was built in the storage room. Thanks to Fred Gallop and his team.
- New double doors were ordered in November for the Cann Hall. They will be installed in the new year between the entrance way and Cann Hall.
- New locks have been ordered for all the outside doors, and they will be installed in the new year. Many thanks to Jerry Landry who is overseeing this project.
- A request has been made to get the heat pumps serviced in the new year.
- We also would like to thank Bill Feddema who kept the lawn mowed and whipper snipped this summer.
- A big thank you goes out to Barrett Firewood who donated two loads of red mulch for the Knox gardens.

- Pat Galbraith did a wonderful job keeping the garden weeded and spreading the mulch.
- And a huge Thank You is extended to Jerry Landry for not keeping us in the dark. Changing all the bulbs and florescent lights at Knox is an ongoing, daily process.

A special thank you goes out to all who keep Knox United at the high standard to which we are accustomed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Elson (Mannie) Lewis, Chair*

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## **LOWER SACKVILLE NURSERY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The initial intent of establishing the Lower Sackville Nursery School (The School) in 1970 was to provide parents with a cost-effective pre-school program in order to prepare students for the Primary program in the Public Schools.

With the introduction of the free, Pre-Primary Program in Public Schools over the past number of years, the School has continued to struggle with declining registration and the loss of both teachers and Directors. In 2019, we lost several teachers and a director and again in 2020 the same thing happened. On top of this, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, the School closed its doors for March break and did not re-open until September. During this period, the province of Nova Scotia provided funding to support the salaries of the teachers as well as support for the facility to remain ready to welcome students back should the government and Public Health determine it was safe for students to return to class.

In addition, we were informed that the Director who had started with the School in September of 2019 wished to resign this position for personal reasons. With the help of Council Chair Beth Martin, Finance Committee liaison David Duggan and one of the current teachers a number of individuals were interviewed for the Director position. A very good slate of candidates had expressed interest in this position and we were very fortunate in hiring Lynette Lund. Lynette came with a very impressive list of qualifications and experience. Ms. Lund began in late August preparing for the upcoming School year and also had to hire new teachers to replace several of the previous teachers who had resigned over the summer in order to take positions with the Halifax County School Board Pre-Primary program.

The 2020-2021 school year has not been without its challenges. Our enrolment has been steady at half-capacity, with 42/72 spaces in the preschool filled. We have had 18 children withdraw from LSNS, 8 of which have chosen to enroll in Pre-Primary instead, and 7 due to concerns over COVID-19 at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, we have endured the resignation of two educators (one to the Pre-Primary program). COVID-19 has placed additional strain on our educators, as we have found creative ways to operate an enriching and developmentally-appropriate program that is also safe and abides by our public health order.

This school year has also seen a great deal of positive changes and growth. Ms. Lund has been working diligently to organize and clean out the office, classrooms, and storage room, ensuring that materials and files are easily accessible to everyone. We have also purchased two Amazon Fire tablets and adopted a free parent-teacher communication app called Bloomz, which has allowed us to better communicate with our families, and use pictures and videos to document the learning experiences

taking place in our classrooms. We have created a new website and an Instagram account that advertises our current program.

Our educators have been collaborating with Behavioral Interventionists, Speech Therapists, and a Communication Disorders Technician team to provide excellence in care for our children with exceptionalities. All of our paperwork - from registration forms, to our parent handbook, to our menus, to educator policies - have been completely revamped, and all paperwork has been moved to a Google Drive account. We have also arranged for parents to pay their tuition via E-transfer, which was the preferred method of payment by our parents in January 2021.

We hired on three new educators this year, whose teaching philosophies closely match the emergent, play-based, child-led curriculum for Early Childhood Education in Nova Scotia. Our centre has also passed both Licensing and Public Health inspections with flying colors.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynette Lund, Director of the Lower Sackville Nursery School  
David Duggan, School Liaison, Knox Finance Committee*

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## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

The Finance Team is made up of Kevin Webb, Treasurer, David Moore, PAR and Data Coordinator, David Duggan, Secretary, Rick Nursey, Lower Sackville Nursery School liaison, Blanche Hoddinott, counter, Rose Abraham, chief counter, Mary Beth Fancy, spiritual leader, Janet Hadley, assistant PAR and Data Coordinator, and Fred Gallop, Chair.

When Paul O'Brien asked if I needed anyone else to round out the Finance Team, I asked him to identify individuals who would be interested in assisting us to move the church forward in the future in as smooth a transition as possible. Perhaps you could help out in this meaningful way.

John Lindsay-Botten has made repeated pleas for congregation members to join PAR. To date we have not seen an increase in this opportunity. I have heard some people say, "Well, I did not see the 'show' so I don't pay". Well, there is a difference between going to a theater and helping a healthy sustainability of our church. PAR is the most consistent manner to support your church financially. Please sign up. Over 65,000 individuals use PAR in the United Church of Canada, and 100 percent of your contributions stay at Knox to enable us to serve our Mission Statement. Other funding sources, such as Canada Helps, take a percentage. PAR does not.

In reviewing the financial statements for 2020, we ended the year with a surplus of \$71,552.00 prior to the solar panel project. This amount includes COVID grant monies that Boyd Hunter acquired to offset salary dollars and other lost revenues due to COVID. Without these grants, our actual income would have been closer to \$11,000. Federal capital grants under the New Horizons program generated over \$50,000 toward several initiatives, such as office upgrades, boardroom flooring, and an enhanced storage mezzanine in the Cann Hall storeroom. The Freedom Kitchen building is being built with grant monies - \$25,000 from Covid funding, a United Way grant of \$10,000, and a \$20,000 grant from the United Church Seeds of Hope fund. None of these projects used church givings.

In 2021, the projected deficit is \$41,000. This amount is conservative as we don't know of any potential income challenges because of COVID, and whether there will be any federal grants available to offset

loss of income. We have worked with our tenants to ensure they are viable in the long run; if they are successful, we will be as well. Income from fundraising projects last year were approximately \$11,300 compared to a projected income of \$41,000. When the vaccine is fully administered, COVID restrictions will lessen and hopefully we will be able to enjoy entering into another project. The sustainability of our church - your church - is dependent on a younger generation stepping through the doors and leading Knox into the future. I would suggest a large Sunday School reunion to reconnect those who enjoyed Knox in the past. Maybe, just maybe, we will see some growth. Please review the financial statements as prepared by Kevin and Boyd. And sign up for PAR. You won't miss it.

On behalf of the Finance Team, be well and reach out and call someone in this lonely time for many.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Gallop, Chair*

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020 KNOX FUTURES – PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

### **Background**

The National Trust for Canada - Canada's national charitable not-for-profit organization that leads and inspires action for places that matter - estimates that 9,000 religious spaces in Canada will be lost in the next decade. Knox, like other churches, has an aging population and a forecast of declining revenue, with a growing dependence on projects (which are then dependent on aging volunteers for success, and are not feasible in Covid days) for financial viability. Unlike many churches, Knox may have the luxury of having a short-term window of a few years to develop and implement a strategy for long-term financial viability.

The Knox congregation, at the March 2018 AGM, established a committee to be led by Don Farmer and Betty Lou Killen to seek out a developer to explore redevelopment of the church property. The committee subsequently entitled the initiative as "Knox Futures". Agreements for support and financing of the effort were signed with UCC EDGE in October 2018. Working with EDGE, a viability report was developed in 2018, and through participation in a Scenarios Survey and a follow-up congregational workshop in February 2019, the congregation gave the Futures Team their views on what they want Knox to "do and be". (Reports available on the Knox website under News tab).

One result of the February 2019 congregational workshop was to separate the overall Knox Futures project into two distinct Feasibility Study Teams – one to study and make recommendations re Programs and Organization (chaired by Betty Lou Killen), and one to study and make recommendations re Property Redevelopment (Don Farmer, Chair, Fred Gallop, Floyd Fullerton, Paul O'Brien, George Savage, and Boyd Hunter and Sinclair Bannerman, part time).

### **The Property Redevelopment Team objectives are:**

1. To provide facilities for church programming
2. To provide income to the church to supplement declining income
3. To provide a needed service or facility to the community
4. To enter into a mutually beneficial business partnership

### **Current Status**

Our major milestones have been a formal Property Evaluation by Turner-Drake, a land-use study by Dalhousie planning students, seeking interest in a partnership from developers, seeking development

partnership interest with institutions such as Northwood and similar facilities, exploring success-and-failure stories of other congregations locally and across Canada, and, as of April 2020, working with Canmac Economics Ltd. (Dr. Mike Foster) on dimensioning several generic development options and opportunities.

Although we have received lots of encouragement from developers and institutions, we have not been able to get them to the point of making any concrete proposals. After that experience, and learning from the experience of other churches and UCC EDGE, we adopted a strategy of having Canmac do detailed financial analysis of various generic options and opportunities in order to enable Knox to make attractive proposals to potential partners.

### **Current Activity**

The team is working with Canmac on the development of options and opportunities that range from maximum utilization of ALL of the facility, through partnerships/rentals with self-managing third parties (community-focused associations, private schools, daycares, government and social service agencies, hospice, environmental consultants, cultural or school performances), as well as the continuation of all church programs, including Freedom Kitchen. Moveable/foldable high partitions would be in the sanctuary to enable seven-days per week utilization of space, but the chancel would be maintained for services. Residential housing (apartments) of some type is proposed with an affordable unit component to respond to a 1 percent residential vacancy rate in the area, and government initiatives to address an affordable housing component (perhaps a small- to medium-size apartment building where the hall now sits) based on land leased to a developer. We seek a moderate to low risk, high viability, evolving plan with good contribution to Knox for long-term financial stability.

We are working with Canmac by gathering property-related information, and Dr. Mike Foster is in the midst of financially dimensioning the options and opportunities. We anticipate an interim report from Mike in 1 Q 2021. The options should lead to further detailed analysis of selected options.

### **Costs**

All consultant costs, past and ongoing, are approximately \$9.0 K. These are covered by the line of credit from UCC EDGE as approved by the congregation in March 2018. Costs are not payable until such time as Knox completes a successful redevelopment project or sells the property.

### **Knox Future**

The Property Redevelopment Team's goal is to have a well-developed property redevelopment proposal for congregational consideration, when and if required "down the road" to ensure the continued financial viability of Knox.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Don Farmer, Chair*

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

### **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee activities during 2020 included :

- Input at the Annual General Meeting regarding staffing proposals and the 2020 budget
- Negotiations and representations with Nova Scotia Power to get the correct start date for Power sales to the Electrical grid for our Solar panels
- Many Covid-10 related activities including
- Liaison and negotiations with Tenants for rent reductions

- Applying for the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance grants
- Detailed calculations of revenue drop percentages by month and preparation and filing of claims for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy for each month from April through December for Knox
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy applications for each month from April through December for the Lower Sackville Nursery School
- Participation in reopening planning and discussions

I am very appreciative of my fellow Trustees and all Knox members who were supportive of our efforts during 2020.

*Many Blessings,  
Boyd Hunter CPA, Chairperson*

**2020 Financial Highlights**

The actual account balances are reflected later in the report.

**KNOX DONATION STATISTICS – REGULAR GIVERS**

<b>Annual Donations</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>\$0-\$100</b>	49	80	57	2,798	3,431	2,484
<b>\$101-\$200</b>	23	12	26	3,506	1,805	4,067
<b>\$201-\$300</b>	22	23	27	5,714	6,045	6,792
<b>\$301-\$400</b>	13	17	13	4,662	6,132	4,613
<b>\$401-\$600</b>	40	38	38	20,703	19,580	19,548
<b>\$601-\$1,000</b>	25	33	32	20,433	27,002	25,328
<b>\$1,001-\$2,000</b>	50	58	59	71,478	80,125	83,538
<b>\$2,001-\$10,000</b>	27	21	25	104,089	72,288	82,464
<b>Over \$10,001</b>	1	0	0	10,420	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>243,804</b>	<b>216,409</b>	<b>228,834</b>
<b>Average Donation per Giver</b>				<b>\$975</b>	<b>\$767</b>	<b>\$826</b>

**STATISTICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

<i>Number of Households.....</i>	<i>367</i>
<i>Numbers of Baptisms.....</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Numbers of Marriages.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Number of Funerals &amp; Memorial Services.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Number of Identifiable Givers</i>	
<i>Local.....</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>Mission.....</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Church School Enrollment.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>United Church Women.....</i>	<i>13</i>

