

**Grace United
Church
Annual Report
2024**



167

**ENGAGING THE
COMMUNITY**

HOPE

*Sharing Christ, so all will know
the forgiveness, love, and grace of God.*

Grace Annual Report 2024

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~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

GRACE UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATION IS:
*a Christian community, part of an ever changing church,
striving to:*

- ❖ express our faith, hope and mission through worship, prayer, music, learning and service;
- ❖ provide a friendly and caring setting for individuals to seek spiritual enrichment, support and personal renewal;
- ❖ reach out to interact with and welcome members of the community;
- ❖ develop an awareness and sensitivity of world issues by showing loving concern for all God's creation.



Grace United Church

~ In Memoriam 2024 ~

** denotes member of our Grace family*

William "Bill" Davis *
Gail Spry *

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

- **CALL TO ORDER:**

The chair of Grace United Church Board of Directors, George Flavell, welcomed all and called the meeting to order at **10:25 am**. There are 40 people present, and one more arrived part way though.

- **MOTION of Business: # 1: Moved by Simon Kloostra, seconded by Peter Robinson:** that in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we open the Annual Meeting of Grace United Church and recognize that all those in attendance, are eligible to vote at this meeting.

CARRIED.

- **MOTION of Business: # 2: Moved by Tom Beauchamp, seconded by Gary Earle:** that for this Annual Meeting, George Flavell is chair, Anne Hare is recording secretary, and Rev. Cathy Gradante is Equity Monitor.

CARRIED.

- **MOTION of Business: # 3: Moved by Wayne Hare, seconded by Wendy Duplessis:** that we accept the minutes of the March 5, 2023 Annual Meeting as printed and corrected. **CARRIED.**

- **BUSINESS ARISING:** no arising business.

- **LIVING FAITH STORY/ CHURCH PROFILE:**

Rev. Cathy Gradante shared the Community of Faith Profile, as prepared by members of the Stewardship/Finance Committee, outlining the community that our church serves, our Mission Statement, our journey, and our vision for the future, that will be used as we move forward to seek new ministry leadership. This Profile should be reviewed at all future Annual General meetings.

- **MOTION of Business: # 4: Moved by Susann Franklin and seconded by Peter Robinson:** that we accept this Living Faith/Church Profile as a draft copy on record.

CARRIED.

- **MOTION of Business: # 5: Moved by Lochlyn Newton and seconded by Gary Earle:** that we accept the Ministry Reports as provided in the 2023 Annual Report starting at page 11.

CARRIED.

- **PRESENTATION OF SLATE OF CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2024:**

Tom Beauchamp, as a member of the Nomination Committee, presented the Slate of Church Officers for 2024, and the agenda. Discussion as to the inconsistency of rotating Board Chairs, the need for a chairperson's name on Canada Revenue input, followed. Tom Beauchamp agreed to be temporary Board Chair for legal contact and/or documentation. At the moment we are still in need of 2 members to represent Grace United Church on the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC). Two people will be asked to fill this position.

Board of Management 2024: Chairperson - Open (Rotating); Immediate Past Chair - George Flavell; Treasurer - Gary Earle; Recording Secretary - Anne Hare
Carol Allen, Ross Allen, Tom Beauchamp, Wendy Duplessis, Tom Jenkins, Sue Sweet Lebeau/Bruce Coulter, David Moffat, Lochlyn Newton, Paula Pound; Reverend Cathy Gradante

- **MOTION of Business: # 6: Moved by Janie McEachern and seconded by Wendy Duplessis:** that we approve the named slate of officers for 2024, into office.
VOTE: 4 opposed, MOTION CARRIED.
- **MOTION of Business: # 7: Moved by Susann Franklin and seconded by Janie McEachern:** that we allow the Board of Management to add members during the year if warranted.
CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Peter Robinson thanked Sue Franklin for being the driving force behind the scenes, to reduce and eventually eliminate all debt at Grace United Church. As Sue is stepping back from the Stewardship/Finance committee, Tom Beauchamp is now the chair of the Committee.

- **MOTION of Business: # 8: Moved by Susann Franklin and seconded by Maureen Wood:** that, only donations of \$ 20.00 or more, be issued tax receipts.
CARRIED.
- **MOTION of Business: # 9: Moved by Susann Franklin and seconded by Janie McEachern:** that \$10,000.00 be transferred from the Memorial Account to the General church account.
CARRIED.

FINANCES 2024:

2023 Total Income:	\$204,227.86
2023 Total Expenses:	<u>\$183,382.31</u>
Income less Expenses:	\$ 20,845.55

Memorial Account:	\$21,764.13	Memorial Fund:	\$21,764.13
		New Initiative Fund:	\$3,560.47
		Agape Café: (grant)	<u>\$1,790.75</u>
			\$21,763.35

MOTION of Business: # 10: Moved by Wendy Duplessis and seconded by Tom Beauchamp: that we accept the financial report as adjusted for 2023.

CARRIED

PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET:

Revenue; \$122,784.

Expenses: \$112,873.

MOTION of Business: # 11: Moved by Simon Kloostra and seconded by Wendy Duplessis: that we adopt the proposed budget for 2024.

VOTE; 3 OPPOSED, CARRIED.

Rev. Cathy Gradante reports that ECORC, M & P Committee is short of fully trained Interim Ministers and that Rev. Darren Liepold and herself feel that due to Grace's enthusiastic approach to move forward, that Grace United Church can move to seek a half-time minister.

MOTION of Business: # 12: Moved by Carol Allen and seconded by Sharon McKinley: that we approve the formation of a search Committee, for a half-time Minister.

CARRIED.

MOTION of Business: # 13 Moved by Tom Beauchamp and seconded by Wendy Duplessis: that we form a Search Committee of the following volunteers, Carol Allen, George Flavell, Susan Sweet Lebeau, Christine Lewis, Lochlyn Newton (and Paula Pound if she will accept this nomination).

CARRIED

FINAL WORDS: George Flavell offered a big thank you to all the congregation for pulling together to bring Grace United Church to where we stand now. The future is looking brighter.

Rev. Cathy Gradante stated that WE are the hands and feet of Christ, doing His work in the world, and she closed the meeting in prayer.

MOTION of Business: # 14: by Simon Kloostra; that we adjourn the Annual Meeting of Grace United Church. 11:59 am.

Rev. Cathy Gradante,
Equity Monitor
Minister

George Flavell
Chair

Anne Hare
Recording Secretary

Minister's Message – 2025

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

Friends in Christ,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Pastoral Charge Supervisor over the past year, as well as providing pulpit supply for worship services.

It has been another transitional year – with many challenges and opportunities for growth and change. I am grateful for your dedication and unwavering faith in the midst of these times – you have demonstrated your love for God and one another in numerous ways.

Even as you journeyed along an uncertain path, you have made space for joy and celebration – with “Brunch & Learn” events, spaghetti dinners, a roast beef dinner, a craft and bake sale, and your “thank-you” lunch for the congregation at Bridgenorth United, which was deeply appreciated.

In your work and worship together, you have learned new things, taken on new tasks and opened yourselves up to new possibilities! By entering into a conversation with Bridgenorth United about a Shared Ministry partnership you have embraced the promise of God that looks towards a hopeful future.

As you continue to worship, work and witness to the love of God in your time and place, my prayer is that you will let the promise of new life through the Holy Spirit guide your way and enliven your hearts – for in this way, God will continue to do a “new thing” in our midst!

In hope & faith,
Rev. Cathy

Message from the Recording Secretary, Board of Management

Submitted by Anne Hare

The Board of Management of Grace United Church has had a busy and challenging year. For 2024 and into 2025 we are using a rotating chairperson each month for our board meetings.

We are blessed with the services of a Pastoral Charge Supervisor, the Rev. Cathy Gradante, who agreed to lead our worship services and attend our board meetings until a Search Committee can find new leadership. At the AGM in 2024, a Search Committee was appointed to seek a half-time Minister for our congregation. The committee consists of Carol Allen, George Flavell, Anne Hare, Susan Sweet Lebeau, Christine Lewis, Lochlyn Newton, Paula Pound.

However, the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) put us on hold, and did not appoint to us a Regional Support Minister until their June meeting. They did not notify us of this appointment, nor did the support minister receive Regional Covenant Support Team approval to join us.

During the year, the Board of Management worked on reviewing and updating our Constitution and we ratified the document in October. We will be voting on these updates of policies at the Annual General Meeting, February 23, 2025, and will then require ECORC approval to re-instate.

We have also been blessed to have dedicated volunteers to operate the weekly church routines. A big “thank you” goes out to Susan and Neil Lebeau who faithfully operated the sound, LCD screen and live streaming each Sunday at the beginning of the year.

Kudos to Lochlyn Newton for his technological knowledge and dedicated service on the audio-visual equipment, and now the weekly Sunday service sound and livestreaming duties. Lochlyn has also been our administrator, organizing rentals, notifying us of church services and announcements, as well as our Property Manager.

Thank you to George Flavell, our camera operator for the live streaming on Sundays and to the LCD operators who have been Jane Bleecker, Laura Goff, Anne Hare and Sue Sweet Lebeau.

Thank you to Laura Goff, our volunteer office secretary/administrator, who has stepped in without a detailed job description and has done an admirable job.

Wayne Hare has volunteered for the Treasurer position after a stalwart effort by Gary Earle to “right our ship”. Thank-you, Gary, your efforts are appreciated.

Laura Goff has also taken on the responsibility of bookkeeping for the church. Thank you, Laura. Mr. Don Edmonds, a chartered accountant, recommended by the United Church of Canada, has continued to train and assist the treasurer and bookkeeper in navigating the new version of “Power Church”.

Due to a few years without strong organizational direction, David Moffat and the Ministry & Personnel Committee are proceeding to draw up plans for more defined church roles for committee members, which are needed to run Grace Church programs.

Words cannot express our gratitude to all the wonderful VOLUNTEERS at Grace: the dedicated cleaning team, worship leaders, choir members, greeters, elevator operators, refreshment providers, audio-visual volunteers, our regular Sunday attenders and all those who step up to help and to fill the needs.

The exciting news at Grace United Church is that we are currently in negotiations with Bridgenorth United Church, to enter into a Shared Ministry. This means that Rev. Cathy would become a part-time minister at both congregations. (60% at Bridgenorth, 40% at Grace). Details are being worked out and an announcement is forthcoming. This arrangement is set to begin in April 2025.

It is our hope that those coming to Grace feel welcome and comfortable enough to join our team and become a volunteering member.

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Submitted by Dave Moffat, Chair

When we entered the year with no paid staff, we were being challenged to run the church with only volunteers. It was all hands-on deck while we righted the ship. Volunteer lists were made and people stepped forward to take on the many needed tasks. We rediscovered the social benefits of doing things together. So, a big thank you;

- To the cleaning crew who kept us spotless.
- To the yard crew who cleaned up and trimmed the growth.
- To the greeters who welcomed us each Sunday with a smile and a hug.
- To the choir who brought us music when they had accompaniment.
- To the scripture readers who provided context for the sermon message.
- To the collection organizers and counters who managed our givings.
- To the refreshment team who brought us together over nibbles after the service.
- To the office team who sent out the emails and created the notices and reports.
- To the bookkeeper and Treasurer who got and kept our finances in order.
- To the people who worked the sound board and streaming system.
- To the board and committees who managed our affairs.
- To the outreach teams who encouraged involvement near and far.
- To those who attended our services so we can worship together in community.

And a special thank you to Cathy Gradante who has guided us into a new beginning with sound advice, meaningful spiritual leadership and humour.

As the year progressed, we completed the transition to an online version of *PowerChurch* software to manage our finances. A local *PowerChurch* trainer and CPA help us with the transition which also included simplifying our accounts and reports. A big thank you to Laura Goff who became familiar with the software and now does all our data entry. We also thank Gary Earle who resigned as Treasurer in the late fall and Wayne Hare who kindly agreed to take on the role. Our finances are in good hands.

In late spring, a number of people made harassment complaints against other members. As prescribed by law, the United Church has a well-documented discrimination and harassment policy and a process to deal with such complaints. They provided the professional resources required to examine the complaints and determine whether harassment had occurred. This was found to be the case, so the members were removed from the church role.

Late fall, we received word that Bridgenorth United was inviting us into a shared ministry with Rev. Cathy Gradante. Discussions are ongoing with a view to getting congregational approval in February and to start the shared ministry in April. This arrangement will provide us with the financial flexibility to budget funds for a much-wanted and needed music ministry. A new beginning is taking shape.

Trustees Annual Report

Submitted by Ross Allen

Many exciting developments at Grace this year!

The arrival of Reverend Cathy Gradante as a supervising minister has been a welcome inspiration for us all.

With this stability, our congregation numbers have improved and fortunately our financial situation has also greatly improved. With some extra money in the bank, the trustees and Board of Management approved the church taking a short term cashable GIC of \$20,000.00. This matures on July 10th, 2025, and can be either renewed or deposited into our account, with interest. Another GIC was also opened early in 2025.

Around the middle of last year, the trustees decided to investigate the potential of changing the insurance coverage and company for the church. It was decided to contact HUB International Ontario, who offer a General Insurance Plan for the United Church of Canada. This led to the realization that a valuation of the church building and contents should be completed first. We were referred to Loss Control Consultants Limited, and their appraiser, Scott Cruickshank. We made arrangements with Scott, and he was available to complete the inspection early in December. He covers a very wide territory, and was in Ontario at that time. The final report and invoice arrived at the church late in January, and the trustees will be proceeding with the submission of an insurance coverage application to Hub International. The cost of the valuation was approved by the Board at a meeting in the fall.

We are anticipating a reduction in the insurance rates, and a more comfortable sense of security regarding the updated value of the church and its contents.

2025-26 Slate of Officers & Committee Members
(to be voted on at AGM)

Chair - Board of Management

Open*

Recording Secretary

Anne Hare *

Treasurer

Wayne Hare *

Past Chairperson

George Flavell

Trustees

Ross Allen*

Tom Beauchamp

Simon Kloostra

Cathy Gradante

Ministry and Personnel

Dave Moffat*

Peter Robinson

Wendy Duplessis

Carol Allen

Worship Committee

Paula Pound*

Lochlyn Newton

Christine Lewis

Paul Tessier

Carol Allen

Cathy Gradante

Stewardship and Finance

Tom Beauchamp*

Peter Robinson

Wendy Duplessis

Wayne Hare

Laura Goff

Sue Franklin

Property Committee

Lochlyn Newton*

Peter Robinson

Simon Kloostra

Trevor Wood

Health Cabinet

Carol Allen *

Anne Hare *

Tina Dyck

Laura Goff

Wendy Duplessis

Christine Lewis

Diane Mathieson

Healing Pathways

Carol Allen*

Tina Dyck

Liz Valois

Joanna MacQuarrie

Project Hope

Bruce Coulter*

George Flavell

Anne Hare

Maureen Wood

Jane Bleecker

Sue Franklin

Sandwich Sisters

Wendy Duplessis*

Judy Beauchamp

Diane Mathieson

Colleen Breakenridge

Diane Mulvaney

GPIF

Tom Jenkins*

Anne Hare

Wayne Hare

ECORC Representative

Open*

* ***Asterisk*** indicates committee chair
and BoM member

Stewardship/Finance Committee

Submitted by Tom Beauchamp

Good news! Our revenue for 2024 exceeded our expenses every month, thanks to our volunteers and all who supported us.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee met several times during the year and much was accomplished. Laura Goff and Wayne Hare received help and training from Don Edmonds C.P.A., on the *Power Church* system and different modules within the system.

The Stewardship and Finance committee would be remiss if we didn't thank Gary Earle for volunteering to be our church treasurer; getting us over a difficult financial time and helping us to move forward. Thank you, Gary.

Looking at the year-end financial position, and the Board-approved budget for 2025, we are sure you will be pleased with what you see.

Our thanks to Rev. Cathy, the congregation, and all our volunteers who made this happen for our Grace family.

Everything we have is a gift from God, entrusted to us to look after, to the best of our abilities.

Comments on Grace United Church 2024 Financials

Submitted by Wayne Hare

**PAR* - We had 24 givers at the end of the year that were using PAR for their givings, vs 27 in 2023.

**Building Rentals* - Our rentals income during 2024 was \$7861.00 vs \$5165.00 in 2023.

**Fundraising* – Fundraising in 2024 totaled \$5087.00 vs \$9298.00 in 2023.

**Canada Helps* – Donations through Canada Helps in 2024 were a total of \$4564.00. Canada Helps issues receipts for givings made through their organization.

***Total Offerings** – Our total offerings received during 2024 were \$110,518.00 vs \$168,854.00 during 2023.

***Expenses** – Our total expenses during 2024 were \$67,366.00 vs. \$182,118.00 during 2023.

***Debt** - Grace had no any debt at the end of 2024 and our Equity, including bank balance, invested GIC and receivables, is \$90,238.00.

Thanks to Gary Earle for his work as treasurer during 2024.

Laura Goff's work in the office has been vital to the smooth operation of bookkeeping/accounting, and as the contact person that people reach out to at Grace. Thanks to all the faithful members and supporters of Grace. Special thanks to all the volunteers who have worked and helped with work and projects during the year. During 2024 we had no paid employees.

February 7,
2025

Grace United Church Annual Budget 2025

Account	Description	2024	2024	2025
		Actual	Budget	Budget
01	GENERAL			
4000	INCOME			
4100	CONTRIBUTIONS	0	107,628	
4110	General Offerings	122,130	0	120,000.00
4180	Memorial Offerings	299	0	
4185	New Initiatives Income	900	0	
4300	DEFERRED INCOME RELEASED	0	0	
4310	DIR-Project HOPE-Grant	1,416	0	
4311	DIR-Project Hope-Donation	0	0	
4320	DIR-Sandwich Sisters	174	0	200.00
4325	DIR-GPIF	100	0	
4330	DIR-Health Cabinet	0	0	
4500	OTHER INCOME	0	0	
4510	Rental Income	8,196	5,160	8,000.00
4530	Fundraisers	6,651	9,996	4,000.00
4570	Interest Income	0	0	1,175.00
	Total Income	139,865	122,784	133,375.00
01	GENERAL			
5000	EXPENSES	0	0	
5005	MINISTRY	0	0	
5010	SALARIES & BENEFITS	0	0	
5015	Minister's Salary	0	40,000	
5020	Minister's Benefits	0	10,000	
5105	Pulpit Supply	8,645	0	3,750.00
5110	Shared Ministry	0	16,064	33,000.00
5115	Minister's Expense			2,500.00
5120	Music Ministry	9	0	9,000.00
5130	Audio Visual Stream License	670	0	700.00
5140	Worship Resources	326	0	400.00
5180	UCC Representative	1,560	0	0.00
5185	UCC National Assessment	7,503	0	11,443.00
5200	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0	0	
5210	Adult Ministries	0	0	
5220	Youth Ministries	0	0	
5230	Children's Ministry	0	0	
5300	OUTREACH MINISTRY	0	0	

5310	DIX-Project HOPE Grant	1,416	0	
5311	DIX-Project HOPE-Donation	0	0	
5315	Budget Project HOPE	0	3,000	2,000.00
5320	DIX-Sandwich Sisters	174	0	
5325	Budget Sandwich Sisters	1,115	1,500	2,000.00
5330	DIX-GPIF	100	0	
5335	Honduran Sponsorship	0	0	480.00
5340	DIX-Health Cabinet	0	0	
5350	UCC Budget Mission & Service			5,000.00
	Total Ministry & Programs	21,517		70,273.00

Expense Cont'd

6000	PROPERTY	0	35,163	
6010	Building Maintenance	8,070	0	14,000.00
6020	Outdoor Maintenance	2,383	0	3,000.00
6030	Heat	3,745	0	4,200.00
6040	Electricity	3,208	0	3,500.00
6050	Water & Sewer	708	0	750.00
6070	Janitorial Supplies	507	0	650.00
6080	Insurance	13,513	0	14,000.00
	Total Property	32,133		40,100.00

7000	OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION	0	7,146	
7110	Office Supplies	211	0	350.00
7120	Office Equip & Software	1,265	0	1,000.00
7130	Telephone & Internet	1,848	0	2,000.00
7140	Promotion & Website	362	0	400.00
7190	Bank & Other Charges	1,115	0	1,500.00
	Total Office & Administration	4,801		5,250.00

7210	Professional Fees	3,374	0	2,500.00
7280	Memorial Fund Expenses	0	0	
7285	New Initiative Expenses	0	0	
7290	Miscellaneous	0	0	
8000	UNKNOWN EXPENSES	0	0	
	Total Sundry			2,500.00
	Total Expense	61,825	112,873	118,123.00

Memorial Account - 2024

Balance At January 01 2024	21,764.13
Transfer From General Fund	-10,000.00
Donatioins In Memorium	200.00
Balance At December 31 2024	11,964.13

New Initiatives Equity

Transfer From Operating Equity	3,560.47
Transfer From Operating Equity	900.00
Balance At December 31 2024	4,460.47

Grace Partnership in Faith (GPIF) 2024			
Income Statement 2024			
Income		Expenses	
Sales of Gift Cards	\$7,710.00	Purchase of Gift Cards	\$5,833.00
Donations through Grace	\$100.00	Transfer To <i>Friends of Honduran)</i> <i>Children</i> Projects (\$1000.00 USD)	\$1,433.50
		Bank Fees	\$75.76
		Total Expenses 2024	\$7,342.26
Total Income 2024	\$7,810.00		
Total Expenses 2024	\$7,342.26		
Net Income 2024	\$467.74		
GPIF Gift Cards 2024:			
Cards On Hand 1 Jan. 2024	\$5,910.00		
Cost of Cards Purchased from Avgen	\$5,833.00	Cards Sold 2024	\$7,710.00
Profit Value Of Cards Purchased	\$217.00	Total Of Cards Out 2024	\$7,710.00
Face Value Of Cards From Avgen	\$6,050.00	Balance Of Cards In, Minus Cards Out	\$4,250.00
Total of Cards In 2024 YTD	\$11,960.00		
Change in Card Inventory	-\$1,660.00		
		Actual Cards On Hand 31 Dec 2024	\$4,250.00
Balance Sheet 2024 YTD			
Bank Balance 1 Jan 2024	5,376.82	Total Assets 1 Jan 2024	\$11,286.82
Gift Card Balance 1 Jan 2024	5,910.00	Net income 2024	\$467.74
Total Assets 1 Jan 2024	11,286.82	Gift Card Inventory decrease during 2024	-\$1,660.00
		Balance of Assets Dec 31 2024	\$10,094.56
Year End Assets on Hand			
Bank Balance 1 Jan 2024	\$5,844.56		
Gift Card Balance 31 Dec 2024	\$4,250.00		
Total Assets 31 Dec 2024	\$10,094.56		

Health Cabinet - Financial Report 2024

Submitted by Tina Dyck, Treasurer

Bank Balance January 1, 2024: \$ 3,465.93

<u>Health Cabinet</u>			
Balance Forward Jan.1, 2024	\$	834.41	
		Receipts	Disbursements
Brunch and Learn	\$	105.00	Gift Cards \$ 150.00
Beef Dinner	\$	2 294.00	Speaker – Fraud \$ 50.00
Donation	\$	100.00	Bank charges \$ 48.00
Total Receipts	\$	2,499.00	Grace United Church \$ 2,000.00
Total	\$	3,333.91	Total Disbursements \$ 2248.00
Balance - Dec 31, 2024	\$	1,085.41	

<u>Grace Healing Pathway</u>			
Balance January 1, 2024	\$	1,050.22	
		Receipts	Disbursements
No Transactions 2024			Moved to Savings Acct \$ 1,000.00
Total Receipts	\$	-	Total Disbursements \$ 1,000.00
Balance - Dec. 31, 2024	\$	50.22	

<u>Regional Healing Pathway</u>			
Balance Jan. 1, 2024	\$	1,581.30	
		Receipts	Disbursements
No Transactions in 2024			Moved to a Savings Acct \$ 1,000.00
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
Total Receipts	\$	00.00	Total Disbursements \$ 1,000.00
Balance - Dec. 31, 2024	\$	581.30	

Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2024: \$ 1,716.93

Grace Partnership in Faith

Submitted Tom Jenkins



**Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes.
Because for those who love with heart and soul;
there is no such thing as separation.**

Rumi

GPIF continued with the sale of Shop & Support Gift Cards. These cards are available for gasoline, groceries, clothing, hardware, restaurants, etc. A complete list of cards is available in the Friendship area. GPIF makes a profit on the sale of these cards for GPIF projects.

Grace did not send a Brigade to *Nuevo Paraiso* Children's Village in Honduras in 2024. However, we still support Honduran children projects with funding that has been raised specifically for those projects & administrated through *Friends of Honduran Children*.

This year a contribution to the High School at *Nuevo Paraiso* in the amount of \$1000.00 USD was our project.

We would like to express our appreciation to Jane Bleecker for her years of GPIF service. Jane attended her sponsored child Carla's graduation from High School at *Nuevo Paraiso* last year. Great memories.

The KIVA project continues being re-loaned as it is repaid.

Team members are Anne Hare, Wayne Hare & Tom Jenkins

Grace Health Cabinet Report

Submitted by Carol Allen

Our Health Cabinet consists of Co-chairwomen Carol Allen and Anne Hare, Treasurer Tina Dyck, and members Lucie Bonter, Diane Mathieson, Wendy Duplessis, Sue Franklin, Laura Goff.

We are a team of hard workers who enjoy the fellowship of our small group of women. We have assisted multiple ministries and Grace needs when we know there is a call for willing volunteers. We have presented one "Brunch and Learn" on fraud and another on Defibrillator education. Our Annual Roast Beef Dinner is our yearly fund raiser to support our function and the surplus monies go to Grace to support Grace operations.

We provided a wonderful "Thank you Luncheon and Anniversary" in Bridgenorth to celebrate their assistance and sharing of Rev. Cathy Gradante's supervision and our weekly Spiritual Sunday services.

Our focus embraces the importance of team relationship building, listening, and decision making, which continues to encourage whole team decisions of consensus. We all attempt to nurture each other to support and strengthen our Health Cabinet and to enjoy fun and fellowship together. Our mission is to be God's example of caring and sharing wherever it takes us, both as a team and as individuals reflecting Grace's Mission statement.

Our financial report is created by Tina Dyck and outlines the 2024 financial activities of the three ministries above.

Grace Healing Pathway Annual Report

Submitted by Carol Allen

We continue our weekly opportunity for receivers to experience magnetic healing as practiced by The Practitioners of Healing Pathway Ministry. We took a break for July and August and returned to practice in September. Practitioners had the week between Christmas and New Years off to be with family.

We see 4 to 6 receivers requesting a session each Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Upper Room. The receivers are not necessarily Grace congregants.

We begin with a brief check-in time, followed by a reflective meditation and then a time of magnetic healing on the massage tables or in a comfortable chair.

Our practitioners are Tina Dyck, Liz Valois, Joanna MacQuarrie (part time), and Carol Allen.

The ministry is very rewarding and we welcome anyone who would like to experience a relaxing hour of meditation and stress release to contact Carol Allen 705 745-2554.

Regional Healing Pathway Report has not met in 2024

19th Grace Scouting

Submitted by Beverley Reid, Group Commissioner, 19th Peterborough



It starts with Scouts.

At the completion of 2024 our leadership team consisted of Beavers – Barb Everett, Barb McLean, Akshila Amarasinghe, Grace Catto, Melissa Noyes, Tonya Cadieux, Bev Reid, Ted Reid; Cubs - Lochlyn Newton, Mitchell Syer, Blake Sproule; Scouts – Jennifer Cowey, Frank Renwick. Nat Nieman, Cara Trozzolo; Rovers – Kim Syer, Ted Reid. Our Group Committee consists of Bev Reid, Susan Sweet Lebeau, Kim Syer, Sue Franklin, Tom Beauchamp, Kelly Stinson, Seth Doornbos, Shelby Lebeau and Jason Conrad.

At the start of the year, the Cubs and Scouts continued to meet with 4th Peterborough at Westdale United Church. This is so they would have enough leaders and be able to give the youth a fantastic program. The Beavers are meeting at Grace as they have enough leaders.

At our January Group Committee meeting we had the privilege of presenting the Bar to the Medal of Good Service (for continued good service to Scouting) to Shelby Lebeau. Congratulation Shelby.

Our Baden-Powell week celebrations this year were back to pre-2020. We had a sleepover the night before our Church Parade which saw lots of participation by all sections. We also held an All Section Pot Luck Dinner at which we presented several long service awards.

Lochlyn Newton was presented with his 10-year medal and Susan Sweet Lebeau and Beverley Reid were presented with their 30 year awards. Congratulations to all and well done!

At an area Honours and Award event in April, we had 2 members recognized. Lochlyn Newton was presented with his Bar to the Medal of Good Service. Beverley Reid was awarded the Skipper G Award which is given to a leader who provides outstanding service to the youth of Scouting through their programs and efforts on their behalf. This leader demonstrates devotion to Scouting by living the Scout Law. Congratulations Bev! Well Deserved!

June saw the youth participating in the Area Rally Day which is an event where the youth get to race the vehicles that they have made – Beavers make Beaver Buggies, Cubs make Kub Kars and Scouts make 18 Wheeler Scout Trucks. We had several youth win awards in both speed and design. We held 2 other All Section events – a Year End BBQ at Westdale United church in June and an All Section Christmas Party in December.

Following the successful partnering of 4th Peterborough (Westdale) and 19th Peterborough (Grace) over the last 5 years, the Scouts Canada White Pine Council Team decided in September that we will become one new group, effective January 1, 2025. This decision was made after careful consideration was given to the many ways this unified group will strengthen and enhance the programming for our youth, and support for our leadership team.

The merging of our two groups will not impact our meeting times or location, and our leadership team will remain the same.

It is with excitement for our future, that we will become The South West Peterborough Scouting Group. This transition will also bring new neckers and a new group crest, which have yet to be finalized.

At the completion of 2024 our new group had 23 Sharing Beavers, 14 Fun-Loving Cubs, 17 Scouts and 3 Rovers providing Service and 17 adults in leadership or support. We continue to be active within the Grace Church community and sincerely thank the Grace family for their continued support for this youth program.

If you know of a youth who might be interested in Scouting, please call Bev Reid 705-748-6345.

Beverley Reid,
Group Commissioner, 19th Peterborough

Prayer Team

Submitted by Paula Pound

The prayer team is made-up of a faithful, dedicated group of 12 to 15 prayer warriors who pray for the needs brought to them by the Grace family and the community. Paula receives requests for prayer and she forwards them to the group by e-mail. Paula also automatically receives request for prayer that come through the website. These requests are also sent out to the group. We also pray for the needs of Grace and at the beginning of the year, we were praying for other United churches in Central East Region provided by the prayer cycle sent out by the United Church of Canada. (We have not kept up with this practice but may continue in the New Year as Paula still receives a weekly issue of the Prayer Cycle from the United Church of Canada with all sorts of interesting information on prayer.)

Your prayers are kept confidential and we often only use first names or initials, especially if there is a specific identifying situation. We do not communicate or discuss prayers with each other, we simply pray.

In December 2023, we lost 2 members of our team. Gail Pomeroy was an active member of our prayer team for many years. Dorothy Starke was a founding member of the prayer chain. I remember her fondly gathering hand written requests from the box and then later receiving a phone call with Dorothy's distinctive voice letting us know who to pray for. We are saddened by their passing and we will miss them both very much.

If you or those close to you need prayer, you are invited to email Paula at:

paula.pound2244@hotmail.com or call 705-748-2528 . The office staff can also relay a message to Paula. The website for Grace United Church also has an area to submit prayer requests confidentially.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Project H.O.P.E.

Submitted by Bruce Coulter



Project H.O.P.E. reaches out to help those in need and we are working to create a community within Grace as the hub through its dedicated volunteers. I would like to thank all of those who have volunteered or donated to help us serve those in need this past year.

Helping one person may not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person. Project H.O.P.E. and Grace United Church does that for our users of The Pantry of H.O.P.E. everyday. The pantry is stocked by volunteers daily who check to

make sure that any items dropped off are within the dates and check that they are safe for the users of the Pantry.

We have spearheaded the spaghetti dinners to help with Grace United Church through FUNdraising for the general funds. These dinners have created a community where people look forward to our monthly dinners and the delicious food that has received many complements. We are hoping to

start up these dinners again in April or May when the weather is better.

Project H.O.P.E. was able to donate schools supplies to Prince of Wales Public School and St. Alphonsus School. The schools were thankful for the box of paper and school supplies of pencils, pens, coloured pencils, markers, and much more.

The trunk sale helped create awareness of Project H.O.P.E., helped some to let go of treasures, and helped others find treasures at a great deal.

The hats, mittens, and gloves collected at Grace were donated to the shelters for those in need.

Our drive for Christmas for seniors was very successful and helped create a Christmas for some that would not have had a gift.

Thank you to all of those that have supported Project H.O.P.E. If you are interested in helping out as one of our dedicated volunteers or would like to volunteer at one of our dinners, please reach out to projecthope@graceunited.ca.

Sandwich Sisters Ministry

Submitted by Wendy Duplessis

The Sandwich Sisters have continued their outreach every other Monday throughout 2024. The sandwiches we make are taken to One City for distribution.

On average, we prepare about a dozen loaves consisting of ham, roast beef, and egg salad. All are appreciated, but roast beef is the favourite. With this in mind, we are hoping to increase the number of roast beef sandwiches we prepare.

The sandwiches are only one part of the total package which we send. Thanks to all the generous donations including bread we receive; we also offer bananas and muffins.

During the past summer, we were thrilled to find out that the sandwiches we made were enjoyed at a wedding which took place at One City. We wish the happy couple God's blessing.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this outreach.

Through you we are the hands and heart of Christ.

Our dedicated team consists of Judy Beauchamp, Colleen Breakenridge, Wendy Duplessis, Diane Mathieson, and Diane Mulvaney, all of whom give generously by donating eggs, sandwich bags, mustard and margarine.

We wish to thank the Board of Management for their support. The price of meat has risen considerably over the past year, (over ten dollars per order from January 2024 to January 2025) and without their support, this outreach would not be possible.

We feel blessed to be able to continue this mission. Thank you for your support.

Property Team

Submitted by Lochlyn Newton

Wow, another year is behind us. Time sure does fly by fast. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped me with building repairs and preventative maintenance over the past year. Your willingness to just get it done without having to be asked is a huge relief for me. The Property Team has many great volunteers who are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of our church community. I also want to say a big thank you to the volunteers who joined the "cleaning team" in December 2022. The cleaning done every week; the outside work in both summer and winter; and the extra work done through the week to keep our church clean and our willingness each week to do what we can despite the age of many of us, is greatly appreciated. There have been many kind remarks about the cleanliness of the church since we took over. We don't do this for thanks but we do care about Grace!!!! Thank you - thank you volunteers!! If anyone wishes to join our team or perhaps start a new team (different day) just talk to anyone on the cleaning or property team.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the upkeep and repairs to our church building over the last year. Now for a message from our "Grace Church Heavenly Cleaners".

Grace Church Heavenly Cleaners

Submitted by Carol Allen

The Heavenly Cleaners are regularly seen making Grace an inviting, clean, fresh smelling place on all three levels. We have been joyfully taking on this task for well over a year.

A huge THANK YOU to Tom Beauchamp who has been a regular around Grace. Tom prepares and takes out the garbage and recycling on the appropriate days, shovels/sweeps the entrance, and checks security around the building. Tom has the church schedule and prepares and checks the church before and after meetings to make sure things are in order. He has willingly taken on this commitment for Grace.

Tina Dyck loves gardening and can regularly be seen weeding and watering and preparing seeds and seedlings for our spring garden starts - a lot of work in spring, summer, and fall which Tina does lovingly.

The winter months are a MUCH busier time for our inside volunteers. Our third floor volunteers oversee their duties on Thursdays, while the second floor team of hard workers have recently taken on the basement as well as cleaning the main floor on Fridays.

Everyone has embraced working hard in fellowship A check-in with our "Heavenly Cleaners" reports they are happy to continue on Thursday and Friday cleaning get duties.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Bev and Ted Reid who have worked hard on the basement cleaning for over a year, after supervising the Busy Beaver Troop. Bev and Ted find now the growing Beaver commitment leaves little energy to continue their cleaning responsibility.

We are sending out a plea for more volunteers for our Friday Crew of volunteers, as many hands make light work. Please get in touch with Brenda Kloostra (705-745-9304) for up-to-date information re: time

and job description. Holidays and rest days could always welcome a boost to compliment the Friday volunteer team.

South End Bid Euchre
Submitted by Sharon Maskell

Every Monday afternoon from 1-4 pm we run a bid euchre game in the church basement. All are welcome and there is a learning table if it is needed. The atmosphere is very positive. We are there to have fun, see friends, chat, laugh, and make a positive difference in our community. There is lots of laughter and smiles. We average five tables a week, with twenty or so people who come out. One of our players kindly runs the elevator for us so that we may avoid having to use the stairs. Because players have had such a nice time at this event, several have also come to services here on Sundays and stayed.

Each week we raise monies that are donated to special organizations in our city and community. One week last fall we donated money to help one of our parents go with her son to the Special Olympics. The next week he came back with pride to share with us his three gold medals! We also advertise special events in the church such as the spaghetti suppers.

We feel welcome here!

Worship Team
Submitted by Paula Pound, Chair

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.
PSALM 100 VS 2**

The worship team is responsible for all aspects of worship, including the ministry of music at Grace United Church. They provide guidance for worship services that are centred on the faithful preaching of the word of God. This includes nurturing the worship life of all ages of the congregation and those we seek to welcome at Grace. Their goal is to assist in the spiritual development of the members and those watching on the live stream, and to deepen their experience of God's presence in worship. This includes recruiting and supporting participants of worship leading, scripture reading, audio visual and technical support, preparation and serving communion, and Sunday service team members (greeters, LCD, and lift operators). They set and arrange dates for the sacrament of communion, baptisms, and confirmations. They collaborate with the decorating committee for special services. Members of the 2024 Worship Team: Christine Lewis, Lochlyn Newton, Jane Bleecker, Susan Sweet Lebeau, Paul Tessier, Chair Paula Pound and Rev, Cathy Gradante. Meetings were held on January 18th, April 2nd, May 2nd, June 4th and October 17th, 2024, with the chair reporting to the Board of Management on a monthly basis.

In July 2023 a Fee for Service contract (rent a minister) was signed between Grace United Church, Bridgenorth United Church, ECOR and Rev. Cathy Gradante. This was supposed to be temporary but we extended Rev Cathy's contract three times, until December 31, 2024. Rev. Cathy has provided us with wonderful sermons, dramas, and new ways to worship. Rev. Cathy was part of the Commission sent last spring and remained on as our Pastoral supervisor. Taking on pulpit supply provided consistency in leadership and preaching, which provided positivity and instilled confidence in the congregation.

On occasion Rev. Cathy is away and the Team finds replacements with lay worship leaders or retired ministers:

January 28, 2024 study leave - Sue Sweet Lebeau;

February 11, 2024 Scouting did the service for Baden Powel Sunday;

May 19, 2024 study leave - Carol Allen;

June 23, 2024 Bridgenorth picnic- Paula & worship team led an Indigenous Day of Prayer service;
July 7, 2024 -casual sing-song service with potluck;
July 14, 2024 Carol Allen;
July 28, 2024 service at Lang Pioneer Village;
For the month of August, the church was closed, and the congregation was invited to attend services at St. James United;
September 8 ,2024 Sue Sweet Lebeau;
November 3 & 17, 2024 Rev. Dr. Maryanne MacFarland (retired);
December 15, 2024 Rev. Janet Stobie (retired);
Christmas Eve -the Worship Team and members of the congregation held a candlelight carol service. We were invited to join Bridgenorth United for their Maundy Thursday service, as well as their 182th Anniversary, Christmas Calm service on December 18th, and a Cafe type service on December 29th.
On October 20th we joined Bridgenorth to celebrate and have a Thankyou lunch hosted by the Health cabinet. On. We appreciate their hospitality.
We celebrated communion April 14th (cafe style), May 12th, June 16th, October 6th (World wide Communion Day) and December 1st (first Sunday of Advent).

The Worship Team is also responsible for music ministry and we were so pleased to have Paul Tessier and the choir join us on January 28th, Feb 18th, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, May 12th, June 9th, November 24th, and December 8th, 2024. Bev Templar and the choir thrilled us with *O Holy Night* on December 15th. We appreciate them volunteering and really enjoy the live music. Even though Rev. Cathy does an excellent job of finding pre-recorded hymns and videos, it is our hope that next year we will be able to have even more live music.

Thank you to all who read the Scriptures each week.

Thank you to Sue Sweet Lebeau and Carol Allen who have covered when Rev. Cathy is unavailable. Thank you to Laura Goff and Lochlyn Newton who put the service together when Rev. Cathy is away (downloading those hymns can be tricky).

Thank you to all who volunteered to decorate the sanctuary, serve coffee and treats, those who greeted us each week, operated the elevator, took up the offering, and ran the LCD. A special thank you to Jane Bleecker, Lochlyn Newton, George Flavell, Bruce Coulter, Anne Hare, and Sue and Neil Lebeau who were here almost every Sunday setting up and running the sound board, livestream and LCD.

Thank you to Rev. Cathy Gradante for sticking with us and leading us, and for helping to bring joy, laughter and comradery back into the sanctuary.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. 1CORINTHIANS 12:12