

# Rothwell United Church



*ANNUAL REPORT*

*2016*

# Church Council

- F CHAIR
- F VICE-CHAIR
- F SECRETARY
- F TREASURER
- F PAST CHAIR
- F MINISTER
- F CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Co-ordination for Adult Education, Confirmation Class, Baptism Classes, New Members' Education Classes, Marital Prep Classes, Bible/Topical Study Groups, Sunday Club, Youth Group, Library and Resources Team
- F PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES
- F COMMUNICATIONS
- F MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
- F CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE  
Pastoral Care Team, Contact and Visiting Coordinator, (Contact and Visiting Team, Gifts and Talents), Prayer Group and Prayer Chain, Family Ministries, Hospitality Team, Cradle Roll Team, Cards to Visitors
- F MISSION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
Church in Society Team, Christian Singles and Single Again, Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, M & S Fund Promotion, Observer Promotion, Scouts (sponsored organization)
- F WORSHIP COMMITTEE  
Sunday Worship Coordination Team, Greeters/ Welcomers, Lay Assistants for Services, Sacraments Distribution, Special Services, Flower Team, Music and Choir, Bell Choirs
- F FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE  
Treasurer, Ushers, Collection (counters-safeguard weekly deposits); Ensures proper use, care and maintenance of church facilities, Recommends rental policy
- F BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- F MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE
- F STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
- F MEMBERS AT LARGE
- F ROTHWELL UCW, UNITS 1 and 2

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## COMING UP!

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| FEB. 28TH | SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER |
| MAR. 1ST  | ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE                       |
| MAR. 5TH  | 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT – COMMUNION IN THE PEWS  |
| MAR. 8TH  | LENTEN FAITH STUDY STARTS                   |
| MAR. 12TH | ROTHWELL UNITED AGM                         |
| APR. 16TH | EASTER SUNDAY                               |

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.RCHURCH.CA](http://WWW.RCHURCH.CA)  
OR CALL 613-746-0820

## Reverend's Ramblings

Matthew 5:13-16

*You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

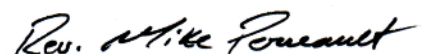
As Rothwell United Church enters its 60th year in 2017, we continue the privilege of carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ to each other, our community, and the wider world.

Our mission in Ottawa in the twenty-first century is really no different from the mission of the earliest churches in the first century: we are called by God, and enabled by the Holy Spirit to be beacons of love, hospitality, welcome, affection, compassion, and grace.

I believe the coming year will be one of transition. The Council has committed to exploring new ways of being Church, while maintaining what's "salty" about Rothwell. We hope to move our Church out into the community more by inviting other community leaders to join us in seeking ways to serve our neighbours, and to improve the quality of life for all in Beacon Hill.

The scripture above challenges us to remain true to our reason for being. As we move forward may we recommit ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ and embody his holiness as we live in community with each other and the wider world.

*Peace and Blessings for 2017*



*Rev. Mike Perreault*

# Church Council

Church Council brings representatives of all the many groups and committees of the church. We ensure good communication and help with long term planning.

Council and presbytery have been thinking about the role of churches in Ottawa, as well as specifically Rothwell. Council representatives met with someone from "EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development" to do an "intake assessment" EDGE is a consulting group that helps churches develop plans. The intake assessment holds a mirror to the church to remind us of our current state, and offers some of the services that EDGE feels would be most appropriate for Rothwell. Presbytery has a similar theme in mind this year and have invited us to participate in something they are calling "Regeneration of Communities of Faith". We will continue working on these projects.

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting the congregation supported moving some of Rothwell's investments from GICs to Mutual Funds. This has now been done. We are collecting the views of the congregation on the United Church of Canada restructuring. The Stewardship Committee brought the Capital Projects Committee onboard and will be looking at prioritizing a long list of projects.

Cam Bowes, the Vice Chair of council, has already chaired a council meeting in my absence. I already feel like I'm on vacation. Keith Findley agreed to take over from Jim and Cassandra Huber in June as the Treasurer. Rothwell became a member of the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MFHI).

After an incredibly long gestation period the large daycare at Rothwell got some good news from City Hall. Nothing written in stone yet, but the small daycare experiment at Rothwell has gone well, and we will have our eyes open in the next stages.

I need to thank the real workers of the church: Rev. Mike Perreault, Trina Harper, Paul MacMillan, Urbain Somé and Mousa Maiga. I have to thank Secretary Phil Fay who arranges our Council Agenda and prepares appropriate minutes on a timely basis. The job of council chair would be impossible without a good secretary.

## Church Council 2016

Minister	Rev. Mike Perreault
Chair	Cameron Bales
Vice-chair	Cameron Bowes
Past Chair	Kim Current
Secretary, Presbytery	Phil Fay
Trustees	Willis Hebb
Treasurers Jan. to June	Jim and Cassandra Huber
June to Jan.	Keith Findley
Ministry and Personnel	Dick Ballhorn
Presbytery	Cameron Bowes
Finance and Property	Scott Udle
Worship	Marsha Messervier
Christian Development	Vacant
Congregational Life	Sally Edwards
Communications	Evelyn Budd
Mission and Outreach	Joanne McCrostie
United Church Women	Sally Edwards
	June MacMillan
	Myrna Deacon
Member-at-Large	Bob Edwards
Stewardship	Rev. Mike Perreault

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Cameron Bales, Chair*

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

The rules of the United Church of Canada require each pastoral charge to establish a *Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee* to oversee the Ordered Minister and other employees and contractors on personnel and administrative matters. At Rothwell, the *Ordered Minister* and *Office Administrator*, as employees, and the *Director of Music*, as an independent contractor, report to and are administered by the M&P Committee on all administrative matters. (The *Custodian*, a contractor, reports to and is administered by the Finance and Property Committee.) In turn the M&P Committee reports to the *Rothwell United Church Council* through its Chair a member of the Council.

The Committee usually meets together and with the Ordered Minister, Office Administrator and Music director three or four times a year. In addition, the Chair and members of the Committee have frequent informal contact with them.

At the beginning of 2016 the M&P Committee was composed of *Richard Ballhorn - Chair, Phyllis Frost, Dorothy Ross, Ruth McKay, and Dennis Cartwright*. During 2016, *Dorothy* passed away and *Ruth* resigned. *Dorothy* was a longtime member of Rothwell and the M&P Committee and we miss her and her contribution to Rothwell and the Committee. We would like to thank *Ruth* for her service with the M&P Committee and wish her the best of luck in her future activities. They were replaced in the fall of 2016 by *Nancy Stevenson and Diane Morrison*.

*Rev. Michael 'Mike' Perreault*, our Ordered Minister, has served at Rothwell since September 2007. Since that time, Rev. Mike has supported the Sunday Club by working to build up attendance, recruit leaders and encourage modern teaching practices. His warmth, enthusiasm and ability to communicate with all age groups continue to be key to Rothwell's ability to retain and gain members and adherents. His compassion and understanding has helped families deal with family problems, illness and the loss of family members. During 2016 Rev Mike began

making special efforts to develop closer contacts with Beacon Heights and the two other senior's residences near Rothwell.

*Trina Harper, Office Administrator*, is the voice and face of Rothwell United for anyone calling or visiting during office hours. She runs an efficient office, dealing with a wide variety of demands in a calm and competent manner. Trina plays a key role in organizing funerals/memorial services and other events at Rothwell as well as dealing with persons seeking to rent church facilities and existing renters, in particular persons wishing to park at Rothwell and the Daycare. Trina also works as a finance clerk to assist the *Treasurer* with his work. Beginning in September, her hours of work increased to 5 hours a day during the week during January to June and September to the end of December. She works three hours a day, Tuesday through Thursday during July and August. Trina takes most of her leave during the less busy summer months.

*Eva Jarman and Dorothy Roy* are the *dedicated volunteers* who help Trina proof and fold the Sunday bulletins. They also straighten up the Narthex and Sanctuary before Sunday services. The three of them have taken on the task of shopping and putting together the Christmas bags for the children, assisting with mass mail-outs and the stapling of the *Family Directory*. *Eva* also helps out when Trina is on leave. We thank *Eva* and *Dorothy* for their service.

*Paul MacMillan* has been the *Director of Music* at Rothwell for more than 20 years and celebrated his 50th year as a church organist in 2016. Paul demonstrates considerable skill in playing the organ/piano, directing the choir, and selecting anthems that match the talents of our choir. He has a great knowledge of the music in United Church hymn books that he puts to good use in coordinating the music with the themes of the church services. Paul continues to introduce new hymns to the congregation while also responding to the desires of the congregation to sing old favourites. To enhance our musical experience, he has included the adult/children bell choirs and the use

*Continued on page 4*

## Rothwell Sunday Club

From January 2016 until the summer, all the children, tweens, and teens met downstairs. Each week began with everyone together for the story. Then each group went to a different area for the rest of the time. As always, snacks and crafts appealed to all.

We spearheaded fundraising for our Syrian family and with the help of our amazing congregation raised about \$2000. As well, we made Valentines for Laurier Manor, made pretzels for Lent, and enjoyed ice cream sundaes.

The first Sunday of June was our annual BBQ and Graduation for some of our tweens.

After a break for summer, Sunday Club resumed on September 15th. During the fall, the younger children continued to meet downstairs, but our tweens and teens moved upstairs. Both groups followed themes using Bible stories and activities to enhance learning. The Upstairs group now focus on discussions of themes and how the Bible stories relates to their current situations.

Some of our gang shared their adventures to the West coast. Some participated in the Remembrance Day service, and many shared their acting, reading, and

musical talents with the congregation during the annual Christmas Pageant event.

Although we do not see everyone every week, our church has at least 31 children, tweens, and teens ranging in age from babies to 18 who call Rothwell United home. We are truly blessed.

No programme would be possible without the dedication of our teachers and teen helpers who devote time and energy to our group. A huge thank you to all of you who lead and assist each week. Also important is the love and encouragement that our congregation gives.

As we move into 2017, we can be assured of God's never-ending love and support for these precious members of our church family.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Graydon*

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## Ministry and Personnel Committee (Continued from page 3)

of various instruments to support musical arrangements. He has devoted particular effort to the music performed at Rothwell Christmas services and events. He makes every effort to purchase music for Rothwell at advantageous prices.

Members:  
Phyllis Frost  
Dennis Cartwright  
Nancy Stevenson  
Diane Morrison

*Richard Ballhorn  
Chair*



# Worship Committee

**ROLE:** to provide oversight for the worship services and the use of the worship space.

**GOAL:** to ensure that our worship services nurture our spirits and our bodies.

**OUR MEMBERS:** Phil Benson, Lynne Current, Kathy Ross, Phil Fay, Cliff Johnston, Paul MacMillan, Pam Graydon, Laurie O’Nanskie, Rev. Mike Perreault, Marsha Messervier (Chair).

**Highlights of the year** were having cake every month to two months to celebrate people or committees, having the ACMO join us for a service, a potluck at the Good Friday service, Sunday Club Graduation in June, having the teens (Aidan, Cassy & Matthew) tell us about their exchange trip during March break, World Food Day, Thanksgiving in October, Remembrance Day and the full panoply of Advent and Christmas Services including: White Gift Sunday, the Angel Tree dedication, the Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve services and beginning the year with the Candles of Remembrance service.

During the year we had several communion services alternating between receiving communion at the altar and in the pews.

Issues discussed by the committee during the year were how we can be more welcoming to newcomers, special /different services and a topic that we will be seeking the views of the congregation in the fall—a review of our current practices in respect of the Sunday services. We decided to change our meeting from the first Wednesday night of each month to after church on Sundays every two months. Are there things we should be doing, are there things we should stop doing and should the present order of service be changed?

The Worship Committee would like to thank everybody who helped make our services uplifting and memorable.

Special thanks to Rev. Mike, our musical director Paul MacMillan, all our lay licensed worship leaders who led the services in July and August as well as to all those who played the organ when Paul was away.

Special thanks also goes to our Office Administrator Trina Harper and volunteers Eva Jarman and Dorothy Roy for providing the weekly bulletins.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Messervier*

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## Rolls and Records

The following Congregational statistics have been extracted from the appropriate church registers as of December 31, 2016:

Number of Active Households	159	Number of Members removed by death	3
Number of Persons transferred from Rothwell	2	Number of Persons transferred to Rothwell	1
Number of Baptisms	6	Received into Full Membership	1
Number of Funerals/Memorial Services	7	Number of Marriages	1

*Respectfully submitted by  
Trina Harper, Church Secretary*

## Rothwell Choir

The choir has again had a successful year providing music for the Sunday morning services, Good Friday and the two Christmas Eve services. This is a group of people who enjoy singing and spend Thursday evening from September to May preparing music to sing on Sunday morning and the three extra services. If one counts the hours spent working at music, the choir is by far the most dedicated group of people in the congregation.

Besides thanking the choir members for their work Vivian and Keith Findley need to be thanked for their support by playing hand bell parts with some of the anthems. Emily Udle also helped add to a presentation by playing on the organ. These people are very willing to help when asked.

Nancy Hebb has assumed the role of collecting the anthem copies after to be filed away each week after the service. This job entails going through the folders weekly and pulling out the “sung” music. She has also taken on keeping the record of the music sung each week. There is a notebook which was started in September 1995 and it is extremely handy when picking anthems and knowing the dates when they were last sung. Thanks Nancy.

Another very helpful man is LaVerne Palmer who uses his computer skills to match up music and hymn words when a different tune, other than the one with the music, is used.

Our minister, Rev. Michael Perreault is a great person to work with and is very receptive to any suggestions for varying the “Order of Service”.

We welcomed Margo Trewin to our ranks this year.

Our numbers are decreased in the winter season when members leave Ottawa in search of a more temperate climate, be it two or three weeks or two or three months. Poor health and age has taken its toll on the choir this past year. We have had to say goodbye to Marion and Bill Maitland, John Sharpe and Bob Ledingham. We wish these “retirees” the best of health and happiness.

As you can see there are lots of empty seats in the choir loft and if anyone cares to help fill them they will be made most welcome. “I can’t read music” is no excuse to stay away.

We also have a social life! Pat and Bill Johnson hosted a wind up dinner at the end of the season. Thanks Pat. We had tea and coffee after practice at Christmas time, and on occasion tried to boost the profits at “Tims”.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Paul MacMillan, Music Director*

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## Christmas Hamper Project

2016 was a good year for the Rothwell Christmas Hampers. This year we helped 13 families, some were nominations from parishioners and some were shared with families with the help of the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard. The money collected this year was down, so the money distributed was down. We didn't get anonymous stories back from the food bank this year so I have no specific numbers of people helped. Given past years I believe we helped about 50 people.

The Hampers this year were entirely Loblaws gift cards. I'm happy that the recipients get to use the gifts in whatever way they feel helps their family the most.

Thank you for all of the kind gifts from congregation. This project would be impossible without you.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Cameron Bales*



# Rothwell Handbell Choirs

## Active Choirs in 2016

Covered in this report are the groups which were active in the 2016 calendar year. These are the Alpha Ringers for young and occasionally, older new ringers and the Rothwell Ringers for more experienced ringers

## Alpha Ringers

The primary goal for this group continues to be to stimulate interest in and love of music. Along the way basic music theory and handbell ringing techniques are taught.

There were four members in this choir for the Spring group. They demonstrated their skills as part of the Sunday Club service in June. All ringers were back in September bolstered by two new ringers. They were not able to play for the annual White Gift Service but will be presenting their Christmas piece in January.

### Members:

*January Choir* – Scott MacIver, Shawna MacIver, Catherine Messervier and Rowan Weatherbee.

*September Choir* – Dylan Born, Scott MacIver, Shawna MacIver, Catherine Messervier and Rowan Weatherbee and Currie Weatherbee.

## Rothwell Ringers

The program for this choir is usually focused on working through an eclectic collection of scores some as challenges and some to learn or improve bell ringing techniques. Conflicting schedules and illness continued to disrupt plans but the group continued to enjoy bell ringing. The choir played in services in February, March and May. Thanks to Paul for helping us along with accompaniment.

A special presentation was to play “God’s Perfect Peace” at the Celebration of the Life of Ethel Jackson on June 10. Ethel was one of the founding members of our choir and a long-time enthusiastic supporter.

In September two new ringers joined the group of five and the choir played a medley of carols in one of our Christmas services.

### Members:

*January Choir* - Lee Crowe, Vivian Findley, June MacMillan, Barbara Palmer, Emily Udle.

*September Choir* - As above joined by Evelyn Budd and Scott Udle

## Would you like to try handbell ringing?

It is easy to ring a handbell. It takes a lot more time to become skilled. Both of our current choirs are community choirs meaning that there are no auditions and church affiliation is not important. A sense of rhythm and some musical experience are assets but not essential. Handbell ringing is a team endeavour so that dedication to the group is important. All handbell ringers have a lot of fun in the process of practicing and learning new techniques and derive much satisfaction from sharing the love of handbell ringing with others. A prime objective is to build and strengthen a love of music.

*Come out to any practice and give handbell ringing a try!!!* (Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.)

Thanks to all members for your patience and support.

*LaVerne Palmer, Director*

## Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team has continued through another year in responding to requests for spiritual comfort and support from those of our congregation who were experiencing times of personal or family distress. Also there were occasions to celebrate with individuals by giving them appropriate recognition of their special event.

Under the direction and support of Rev. Mike, Minister of Rothwell United Church, the team has visited members of our congregation who have been in hospital, are convalescing or confined at home. To ensure that our church family is being cared for, a follow up is made with a phone call or visit.

We hold monthly meetings on the second Sunday of the month after church services.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to be a very important part of Pastoral Care both within and outside the church. This ministry reaches out to those who may require the warmth and embrace of God's grace. We appreciate the many talented congregation and community members who keep us supplied with these beautiful shawls. This year we donated 6 shawls to the Peter Armstrong Residence and 12 shawls to Laurier Manor to use as needed. There were 23 shawls donated to individuals from within and outside the church.

Rev. Mike, along with members of the congregation and Pastoral Care Team, is holding a Communion Service at Beacon Heights Retirement Residence. All residents are invited to attend on the last Friday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel located in the basement.

Throughout the year, Rev. Mike, along with various members of the Pastoral Care Team, visited shut-ins and shared communion. The team sent Christmas cards and blessings from Rothwell to all shut-ins and to those who have moved away. This proved to be a positive undertaking and will continue in the future.

**Members include:** Keith Findley, Lise Schewchenko, Gloria Manuel, Evelyn Budd, Joanne McCrostie and Margaret Griffiths. We would be happy to have new members join us.

### Interested in joining the Pastoral Care Team?

For more information, you are invited to speak to any one of our members or to register to take the Pastoral Care Training Basic Course, or visit the website at [www.ottawapastoralcare.com](http://www.ottawapastoralcare.com). Register before Feb.28th for the next course. Rothwell will pay for the course if completed.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are identified by the green name tags. They are available to speak to you before and after church service. If necessary, please call any one of the members as your well-being and concerns are important.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Margaret Griffiths and Joanne McCrostie*

## Rothwell Prayer Group and Prayer Chain

Our Rothwell Prayer Chain is simply a group of people who are committed to pray upon request for any "immediate" or emergency concern. Communication of requests works like the chain letters we older folks used to receive in the mail, as prayer requests are passed along from person to person by phone, or else by email, and soon all fourteen of us are praying as best we are able. At this time, fourteen folks are part of the group, and it would be wonderful to have more.

We remember with love and affection two special and prayerful members of the "Chain", Dorothy Ross and Ernie O'Neil. They are missed and they leave deep holes.

Prayer requests may be made by simply phoning Rev. Mike at 613-746-0820. Bill Maitland is normally the alternate contact, and until he becomes available again, Barb Palmer at 613-741-9541 or Maureen Crossley at 613-746-5069 are also glad to receive calls.

The Prayer Group continues to meet at 9:30 am every Sunday, year 'round, in our chapel. This group maintains a list of requests, and prays weekly together, and daily at home as we are able, for as long as the prayers are wanted.

Our numbers are small, and we miss Ernie's lively and prayerful presence on Sunday mornings.

Somehow 9:30 is very early on a Sunday, but new members would be welcome any time, and may come on a "give it a try" basis, or commit to coming regularly, or simply come when available. You would be welcomed.

Requests for prayers may be left in the little prayer box on the wall behind the guest book in the narthex.

*Barb Palmer, one of the group members*

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## Presbytery Representatives

The mission of Ottawa Presbytery is to support and encourage the spiritual well-being of the pastoral charges and to nurture joint mission and witness on behalf of the United Church of Canada (UCC). Ottawa Presbytery consists of 51 pastoral charges in the Ottawa area and west Quebec. The ministry of Presbytery is primarily supported through the assessments paid by the pastoral charges. In 2016, the assessments totalled \$400,000 of which \$6,957 came from Rothwell. About 30% of the budget of Presbytery is passed along to Montreal and Ottawa Conference which embraces 4 presbyteries.

In 2015, the 42nd General Council of the United Church of Canada recommended a number of changes designed to enable the Church to live within its declining resources. These changes have taken the form of remits which, if approved, will alter the terms on which the UCC was established. The remits are to be voted on by congregations and presbyteries across Canada. By the end of 2016, Ottawa Presbytery had voted on 5 remits. Rothwell United will vote on remits in 2017.

Ottawa Presbytery launched a campaign to raise \$100,000 in support of "The Haven", a model for innovative, affordable housing being built in Barrhaven by the Multifaith Housing Initiative. Several congregations have joined the campaign and fundraising is underway. The campaign was brought to the notice of Rothwell United in October.

Following more than three years of hard work by many people, Presbytery approved a motion to bring together United Churches in Rupert, Cantley, Gatineau, Wakefield and Chelsea into a single new church called Grace United Church. For some time, Wesley United Church, Beechgrove, and Quyon United Church, Quyon, have been functioning as a single congregation. Presbytery approved a motion to amalgamate the two churches into a single church to be known as Quyon United Church.

*Respectfully submitted  
Cam Bowes and Phil Fay*

## Interchurch Refugee Group

The Interchurch Refugee Group (IRG), a registered charity, is an ecumenical coalition of 5 East Ottawa churches – Orleans United Church, Community Pentecostal Church, Epiphany Anglican Church, Navan-Vars United Church, and Rothwell United Church. For 27 years, the IRG has been sponsoring government-approved refugee families, supporting their integration into Canadian society and facilitating their transition towards self-sufficiency.

Amidst the high demand to sponsor Syrian refugees in 2016, we were extremely fortunate to be approved for the sponsorship of a family of 6 Syrians. The family arrived in mid-February, speaking almost no English. A roster of Arabic-speaking volunteer interpreters from the wider community enhanced our communication abilities. With our help, Abdulrahman and Nermen have made a comfortable home for their 4 children and have tended to many medical and dental needs. They thrived at a Family ESL summer day-camp; they are all flourishing at school, ESL classes, and daycare; they have enjoyed many recreational opportunities; and they even purchased a used vehicle, enabling them to visit family in the city's West End more easily. Abdulrahman has been working part-time for most of the sponsorship and Nermen has begun volunteering at her son's daycare, in preparation for seeking work.

In mid-March, our sponsorship of Sylvester, Anjelique and their three children officially came to an end. Several IRG volunteers continued to support this Burundian family through 2016, extending friendship and assistance as needed. This enabled the two younger children to play in a summer soccer league and attend Camp Awesome and the older girl to take leadership training and work as a Counsellor-in-Training. Sylvester spoke eloquently to those attending the IRG's AGM in May.

In the fall of 2015, the IRG had applied to sponsor three Syrian young adults, who wished to join their aunt and uncle in Orleans. Unfortunately, we learned that their entry to Canada was denied at the time of their interviews in Lebanon, and a subsequent appeal to the Minister of IRCC did not overturn this decision.

As well, we regretfully accepted the resignations of two of

the IRG's longest-serving members of the Steering Committee. Pat Ulrich, from Orleans United Church, and Roy Moffett, from Epiphany Anglican Church, have served the IRG for 16 and 20 years, respectively. The cumulative impact of their dedicated leadership and loyal service is immeasurable.

Throughout the year, each of our congregations took on individual activities to support our ministry. At Rothwell United, the Sunday Club chose to make the newly arrived Syrian family the beneficiaries of the church's Lenten Collection, which raised just under \$2,000. This incredibly generous gift equipped the children for school; enabled them to enjoy biking and swimming all summer; costumed them for Halloween, an exciting first-time event; and relieved financial strain for the family as they purchased new winter clothing for their children.

One of the highlights of 2016 occurred in January when the IRG family came together at Orleans United for our second dinner and movie night. Volunteers from all of our congregations worked to create a delicious meal and a memorable evening for the 155 guests, including 5 former refugee families. Over 30 local businesses made donations to this fundraising effort, an indication of the continued high level of support for the refugee cause throughout the community.

This year we had a chance to hear first-hand the difference a private sponsorship group like the IRG makes in the lives of sponsored families. Abdulrahman and Nermen were able to compare the ongoing support they received from us to the experiences of several extended family members who arrived in Canada as government-sponsored refugees. This continuous platform of support offered throughout the first 12 months of a family's arrival, is made possible by the generosity of all five supporting congregations. Your financial support, your spiritual support, and your generous gifts of furniture, household goods, clothing, school supplies, sporting equipment and groceries all contribute to the warm welcome and ongoing care offered to those we sponsor. In addition, the many kindnesses shown by volunteers, who helped them move into their new home, assisted them with school enrollment, aided with budgeting and

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## Communications

Rothwell's website at [www.rothwellunited.com](http://www.rothwellunited.com) and [www.Rchurch.ca](http://www.Rchurch.ca) helps keep members and the public up-to-date to what is happening at Rothwell.

People often report that they have found us by googling for a local church on the internet. The Rothwell website has an abundance of information that includes the annual report, the constitution, Rothwell's history, contact information, as well as events coming up and projects that we are engaged in. The website is updated weekly thanks to our church administrator, Trina, forwarding the text from the Sunday bulletin Monday mornings and other updates. A huge thanks to LaVerne Palmer who uploads the recordings from our Sunday services and special events. In 2016 we had 10,602 visits and it continues to climb each month.

Rothwell also has an active Facebook page where photos, humour, facts, upcoming events, projects and a lot of fun comments are posted. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and type "Rothwell United Church" in the search box. Sign up and you will be part of the on-line Rothwell community.

Sincere thanks goes to Eva Jarman for her on-going and

excellent proofreading and Trina with her dedicated volunteer staff for their on-going support in getting our information out to members.

Thank you to all the contributors to the Annual Report and the people who deliver our Christmas postcards as well as the Annual Report to fellow members of Rothwell.

This year we increased our online advertisements with Orleans Online, Citizen (Going Out, Our Town), CanWest, EMC, Banar as well as in print in the EMC, the Citizen and Banar.

Chatting with other people and inviting them to join in will always be the best way to spread the news about Rothwell. If they are inspired to learn more they will google us. Stay for coffee and introduce yourself to visitors, after all Rothwell does have a reputation for being a very friendly congregation!

*In the Joy of Service,*

*Evelyn Budd*

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## Interchurch Refugee Group (cont'd from page 11)

banking, arranged and drove them to countless medical and dental appointments, and helped with so many other tasks, have been significant in their settlement success.

They have expressed their sincere appreciation often.

The occasion of having two overlapping sponsorships early in 2016 highlighted the need to deepen our pool of volunteers and to create more opportunities for individuals to help co-ordinate settlement responsibilities. As the year drew to a close, we planned a leadership re-organization and a targeted recruitment for early 2017 to ensure the continued viability of the IRG.

We express our gratitude for the ongoing support of our churches as we prepare for another rewarding year.

Through God's grace, we will continue to engage in this life-changing ministry - providing sponsorship, friendship, and support to refugee families.

"... For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." - Matthew 25:35 (ISV)

Further information may be obtained by contacting [interchurchrefugeegroup@gmail.com](mailto:interchurchrefugeegroup@gmail.com).

*Margaret Richardson, Chair*

*Sara Washburn-Pichette, Treasurer*

*Kristin Goff, Secretary*



## Board of Trustees

The role of the Trustees is to hold the major assets of the Congregation in trust. These assets are comprised of the church building, the land on which it is located and the Trust Fund investments. The investments include the proceeds of the sale of the manse property in 1985 and the sale of surplus church land in 2003. The Trustees are subject to the direction of the Congregation and, with the consent of Presbytery are empowered to sell, mortgage, exchange and lease real property held in trust.

The attached Trust Fund Income Statement and Balance Sheet provide details of the Trustees Income, Expenses, Assets and liabilities for the year ending 31 December, 2016. The Solar Panel Fund statements are included elsewhere in this Annual report.

In accordance with direction received at the Congregational Meetings of 22 May, 1984 and 05 March, 2003, the income from the co-mingled Trust Fund investments, (Manse and Land sales), is to be used to pay, in part, the Ordered Minister's Housing Allowance. For 2016 a total of \$10,000 was transferred to the Finance and Property Committee (F&PC). In order to achieve this goal, it was necessary to transfer \$2,500 from the Solar Panel Fund. The goal of \$10,000 has been set for 2017 which will require another nominal augmentation from the Solar panel Fund.

The Trustees ensure that adequate property, liability and other necessary insurance is carried at all times. The premium is paid by the Finance and Property Committee. Rothwell's insurance is provided through the General Insurance Plan of the United Church of Canada. For 2016/2017 this coverage includes replacement cost value of \$2.668 million for Property of Every Description and \$10.0 million for Directors/Officers and Employment Practices Liability.

The most recent appraisal of the building and contents was carried out in November, 2013 at which time the appraised value was \$2.35 Million.

All 2016 taxes and insurance premiums were paid when due. Except for the solar panel loan obligations, all property, real and personal held in trust for the Congregation by the Trustees was clear and free of debt,

encumbrance or any obligation. The outstanding principal on the solar panel loans as at 01 May, 2016 was \$47,700. The fifth installment of the Principal and Interest payments, totaling \$8,791 will be made on the 01 May, 2017 anniversary date.

The Trustees ensure that proper maintenance and repairs of Church property are being carried out as delegated to the F&PC. The Trustees are satisfied that this is being done.

Due to low rates of return from GICs, and as noted above, over the past couple of years it has been necessary to utilize funds from the Solar Panel Project to achieve the Trustees goal of stabilizing the Housing Allowance at a minimum of \$10,000. With this in mind, the Trustees formulated an Investment Strategy Plan (ISP), based upon the United Church of Canada's ISP, which would allow the Trustees, albeit at a low to medium risk, more flexibility in their investment options with a view to improving the level of return from the Trust Fund Investments. This plan was presented at the Congregational Meeting held on 13 December, 2015 and was approved. The Trustees' request to seek from Presbytery the removal of the restrictions placed by Presbytery on the funds received from the 1985 sale of the manse was denied.

The Rothwell Board of Trustees was authorized by the Congregation, (1970), at seven members. At the next Annual Congregational Meeting, planned for March 5th, 2017, the resignations of two members will be accepted. Don Baxter has served since 1999, and Carol Einarson since 2009. The approval will be sought to accept Lise Shewchenko and Keith McCambley as members. The current members are listed below.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Willis Hebb, Chairman*

### **Members, Board of Trustees for 2016**

Willis Hebb, Chairman  
Pat Osborne, Treasurer  
David LaFranchise - Secretary  
Members: Don Baxter, Carol Einarson, Nancy Hauley, and Joanne O'Byrne

*Continued on pages 14-15*



## Board of Trustees *Continued from page 14*

### Notes:

1. The accounts of the Rothwell United Church Board of Trustees are established to manage cash investments of proceeds arising from the sale of RUC properties. The funds are managed in accordance with the rules of the United Church of Canada and are held in trust on behalf of the Congregation under the authority of the Ottawa Presbytery.
2. Congregational Equity includes a reserve of \$195,000 to meet the Ottawa Presbytery's direction when the manse was sold to maintain the Trust Fund at the net value obtained from the sale.
3. Effective 2016, the Board of Trustees has purchased \$94,800 in mutual funds in accordance with an Investment Plan Statement approved by the Congregation in Dec 2015. As at 31 Dec 2016, the market value of these funds is \$101,055.88

*Respectfully submitted:  
Pat Osborne, Treasurer,  
Board of Trustees*

I have carried out an independent review of the Bank Book, Bank Statements, Ledger, Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the Trust Fund of Rothwell United Church as at 31 Dec 2016.

In my opinion, the financial documents referred to present fairly the position of the Trust Funds of Rothwell United Church as at 31 December 2016, and the results of operations for the year then ended.

**Signed:** *Chad Francis, Reviewer*

**Dated:** *January 24, 2017*

## Capital Expenditures/Stewardship Committee

In 2016 Council struck the "Capital Expenditures Committee" to act as a consulting body for Council and the F&P to explore the feasibility of significant capital projects.

We are blessed with a good building in a desirable location. It is clear that in the future, our building may have to be modified to accommodate new forms of worship, ministry, and tenants.

At the 2016 AGM, there was significant interest in exploring modifying our sanctuary to include more chairs and less pews. As its first major task, the CESC will

undertake a feasibility study to present the congregations with some options.

The CESC will also act as our "Stewardship Committee" bringing matters of time, talent, and treasure before the congregation on a regular basis.

If you are interested in taking part in this venture, please let Rev. Mike know.

*Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Mike Perreault*

## Finance and Property Committee

A new fence was installed at the back of the church surrounding the day care playground and an increase in electrical capacity was achieved with electrical upgrades in the basement thanks to another generous donation.

An expansion of the parking rental arrangement was put in place to take advantage of the limited daytime parking available to nearby businesses. Approval was granted for 20 spaces, of which 11 are currently in use. This has resulted in approximately \$500 additional monthly revenue.

Urbain Somé, our contract custodian since September 2009, continues to be a valuable, friendly, and willing asset to our organization. Mousa Maiga has proven to be an able replacement for when Urbain is away.

Another successful, well-attended clean up and repair day under the direction of Dick Ballhorn happened in late May. Congregational volunteers pitched in to do gardening, painting, cleaning, and miscellaneous repairs.

Your F&P Committee as at December 31, 2016 was made up of:

- Scott Udle – Chairman
- Keith Findley – Vice-Chairman, Finance & Treasurer
- Bill Griffiths – Vice-Chairman, Property
- Ray Mack – Secretary
- Barbara Palmer – Envelope Secretary
- Dick Ballhorn, Dave Elliott, Gay Elliott, Don Geddes, Lise Shewchenko, and Donna Wood – Members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Udle, Chairman*

Our maintenance costs last year exceeded budget 95% or \$6,714. The increase can be partially attributed to unexpected repairs to the heating system and kitchen.

The F&P Committee acknowledges the generous donation of \$6,200 to the general operating fund from the UCW. The F&P Committee would also like to acknowledge the Board of Trustees for their transfer of \$10,000 to help defray the cost of the Minister's Housing Allowance.

2016 was a year for general upkeep and a few minor projects. The kitchen received a new fan/exhaust system as well as an electrical upgrade. The bathroom near the kitchen also received a much needed facelift and new first aid kits were installed at two locations. Thanks to a generous donation from the UCW a new set of dishes was also purchased. These light weight dishes replaced the old mis-matched set and allow Rothwell to accommodate larger groups.

## Solar Panel Project

The Ontario Green Energy Act of May, 2009 introduced the “microFIT” programs. Under the auspicious of this program, and with the approval of the Congregation, (26 April, 2012), a 10 kW, 46 panel solar array was installed. Funds for the installation, (\$96,060), were received through donations and loans from members of the Congregation and a donation from the Memorial Fund. Through September, 2034, Hydro Ottawa is under contract to reimburse Rothwell on a monthly basis at the rate of \$0.802 per kWh generated. The Estate of the Late D. & D. Ross elected to forgive the balance of the loan owing, and \$3,000, plus interest accrued to the settlement date, \$45.00 was paid out and became a donation in the Ross account. As at 31 December, 2016, the outstanding loan principal was \$44,700. On 01 May, 2017 the fifth installment of loan repayments will be made. These payments are: principal

of \$7,450; interest of \$1,341. Funds on hand by that date will be sufficient to cover this obligation.

Pending final repayment of the Congregational Loan obligations, 01 May, 2022, management of the Solar Panel Fund is under the aegis of the Board of Trustees. It is intended to return control of the fund to the Finance and Property Committee at that time.

In 2016, \$2,500 was transferred from the Solar Panel Fund to the Trust Fund to assist in covering the payment of the Minister’s Housing Allowance. It is anticipated that a similar amount will need to be transferred in 2017. The use of Solar Panel funds in this manner was authorized at the 02 March, 2014 Congregational Meeting.

The Financial Statements for the Solar Panel Fund as at 31 December, 2016 are attached. The following table compares the yearly performances as at 31 December.

Period	Original Prediction (kWh)	Actual Power (kWh)	Percent Of Prediction	Nominal Gross Sales
Oct to Dec, 2012	1,904	1,723	90	\$1,382
Jan to Dec, 2013	14,283	12,523	88	\$10,043
Jan to Dec, 2014	14,283	12,847	90	\$10,303
Jan to Dec, 2015	14,283	13,363	94	\$10,717
Jan to Dec, 2016	14,283	13,532	95	\$11,029

*Respectfully submitted:  
Willis Hebb, Chairman,  
Board of Trustees*

I have carried out an independent review of the Bank Book, Bank Statements, Ledger, Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the Solar Panel Project Account funds held in trust on behalf of Rothwell United Church as at 31 Dec 2016. In my opinion, the financial documents referred to present fairly the position of the Solar Panel Project account funds held in trust on behalf of Rothwell United Church as at 31 December 2016, and the results of operations for the year then ended.

**Signed:** *Chad Francis*    **Dated:** *January 24, 2017*

## Rothwell U.C.W. (United Church Women)

**Purpose:** “To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service”.

**Ladies within our congregation** meet on the third Tuesday evening of each month. The daytime group which had been meeting for many years, decided to disband. Ladies in the group take turns organizing a program and devotion for the month, inspired by the season, scripture reading, or an area of special interest / concern. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend any of our meetings and activities for fellowship and fun.

The ladies supplied and served an Easter lunch to High Horizons (a group of Handicapped Adults). We held both a Spring Plant Sale / White Elephant Sale, and a Christmas Bake and Craft Bazaar, with the men and women participating together to make this event such a huge success. The proceeds from these endeavours go to outreach programs such as M & S, Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard, Ottawa Mission, Ottawa Innercity Ministries, Laundry Coop, Cornerstone Housing for Women, just to name a few. We were also in a financial position to assist our own congregation when funds were needed. We provided refreshments for two successful music evenings co-coordinated by Member-at-Large, Bob Edwards. The ladies organize funeral receptions, belong to the Prayer Group, the Flower

Committee, the Pen-Pal Program, sing in the choir, and help with decorating the church for special occasions. We have had the privilege of meeting and sharing with other UCW groups at fellowship days held at United Churches in the Ottawa area.

We enjoyed fellowship over lunch at the Mandarin Restaurant on Innes Road in June. We assisted with the purchase of new dishes for the kitchen, and a second Angel Tree for the Sanctuary. We also experienced loss during this past year with the passing of U.C.W. members Phyllis Patch, Ethel Jackson and Dorothy Ross, and angels were placed in their memory on the Angel Trees in the sanctuary on the first Sunday in Advent. We also provided donations to the memorial fund in their memory.

We accomplished all that we did in 2016 with the continued support of the congregation, and want to thank you all for your donations of food, time and talents. We are truly blessed with all of the things that God has provided, and will continue to fulfill our U.C.W. Purpose in the years to come with love and faith.

*Respectfully Submitted by Eila Ledingham,  
Marilyn Hansen, Sally Edwards &  
Myrna Deacon (Co-Coordinator of Units  
#1 & #2) and Nancy Hauley (Treasurer)*

## Christian Singles and Single Again

This year, our first meeting in January was due to be held the day before the Family Fun Day and Bean Supper. We, therefore, decided to combine the two events and have the Singles Group organize the Bean Supper.

In February, we had a traditional English Tea with a selection of sandwiches and desserts, which rivaled that of the Chateau Laurier. There was a sad note to the meeting as long-time member Ernie O'Neill had died suddenly a few days earlier, and we commemorated his passing with a minutes silence and the lighting of a candle.

By now, March has become our traditional month to have a Hymn Sing after our potluck supper and this year, as in previous years, David LaFranchise led the group in the singing of some well-known hymns. In April, 20 of the group went out for supper, and enjoyed the meal and the company at the Swiss Chalet.

Brenda Vroom, a member of the group was our speaker in May. She gave a most interesting account—complete with photographs of a Mission visit that she had recently made to a community in the Dominican Republic, to help construct residences for the local people from breezeblocks.

Once again, we had a bright sunny evening for our June BBQ at the Church. The winner of the paper aeroplane contest, this year being Margo—a new member.

Returning after the summer break in September, we had a round table discussion on the topic of “Give the name of a person, no longer living, who you would most like to have dinner with? This provoked a wide range of people and reasons for their being chosen.

In November, we had a Trivia Night, on which we are always surprised at the knowledge that members of the Group have on the most abstruse of topics. 27 people attended our Christmas celebrations and as always enjoyed a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and an incomparable selection of desserts. This was followed by a reading of the Christmas Story, a gift exchange and the singing of the first verses of a medley of carols—a capella and without hymn books!

Special thanks to Carol Einarson, Joanne O'Byrne, Eva Jarman, Nicky Lyon and Rosemary Irving who were the prime movers in planning the program, preparing devotions, serving, and cleaning up after supper, and to our Treasurer Joanne McCrostie.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to all Singles and Singles Again to come and join us at our monthly meetings.

*Respectfully submitted.*  
*Phil Fay.*

