

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH

2022 Annual Report

Our 165th Report

***Annual Meeting –
Sunday, February 5, 2023***

Table of Contents

Siloam United Church Statistics	4
Membership	5
Baptisms	5
In Memoriam	6
Message from Lead Minister & Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care	7
Sheila's Sabbatical	9
Message from Minister of Visitation.....	10
Message from Shared Ministry of Youth & Young Adults	10
Message from the Young at Heart.....	12
Church Council	13
Report From Antler River Watershed Region	15
LIFE AND WORK OF SILOAM UNITED CHURCH	
Property	15
Ministry and Personnel.....	15
Spiritual Life & Worship	16
Affirming Ministry.....	17
Boomer and Older Adult Education	
Special Events.....	18
Bible and Book Studies.....	18
Healing and Wellness Ministry	19
Pastoral Care Team	19
Prayer Circle	19
Ministry of Music	20
Siloam Sounds Bell Choir.....	21
Congregational Life.....	21
Siloam Movie Group.....	22
The Rose Birrell Women's Group.....	22
Quilters' Group	22
Trustees	23
Trustees' Financial Report.....	26
Congregational Outreach	
Social Justice and Outreach Committee	27
Siloam's Outreach to Newcomers to Canada	28
Community Outreach	
ELUCO 2022 Annual Report	28

Congregational Resources.....	30
Identifiable Givers.....	31
Siloam United Church 2022 Income & Expenses and 2023 Budget	32
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting – March 22, 2022.....	34

Siloam United Church Statistics

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Lead Minister & Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
 Rev. Ann Corbet, Minister of Visitation
 Marilyn Arthur, Shared Ministry of Youth & Young Adults
 Allison O'Connor, Young at Heart Ministry
 Rev. Wib Dawson, Minister Emeritus

Office Administrator: Wendy Sibley (to March 2022); Erin Salter (April 2022 to present)

Custodian: Chad Brown (to March 2022); Dave & Claire Graham (April 2022 to present)

Membership	2019	2020	2021	2022
Church Membership *See p. 5 for details	679	680	668	674
Total Households	400	402	395	396
Worship				
Child (under age 12) Baptism	1	2	3	1
Adult/Youth Baptism	--	--	1	--
Confirmation	--	--	3	--
Marriages	1	1	1	--
Funerals	14	14	15	20
Services of Holy Communion	6	1	1	3
Stewardship				
Identifiable Givers:				
General Fund	281	258	321	342
Mission and Service	281	258	321	342
Group Enrollments				
Church School & Nursery (including teachers) *known as Young at Heart as of 2022	10-15/week	10-15/week	5/week	10-15/week
Senior Choir	36	35	15-20	15-20
Siloam Sounds Bell Choir	6	3	4	4
Siloam Instrumental Ensemble	3	--	--	--
Fairly Good Samaritans	6 (until June 2019)	--	--	--
Youth Coffee House (monthly)	60-70	60-70	8-10	15-20
Young Adult Hops & Hope (monthly)	--	--	--	4-8
Messy Church	25-30	25-35	--	--
Vacation Bible School	60	--	--	--
Family Musical / Christmas Musical	15/21	15/22	--	25
Friday Morning Book Study	--	--	15-20	10-20
Rose Birrell Group	29	27	25-30	26
Siloam Sizzlers	20-30	--	--	--
Siloam Movie Group	30-35	30-35	--	12-15

Membership (in detail)

Members (December 31, 2021)	667
Transfers In.....	18
Received by Profession of Faith.....	0
Transfers Out.....	0
Removed by Death	12
Total removed.....	11
Total Membership December 31, 2022.....	674

Baptisms

Name	Names of Parents	Date
Santiago Enrique Legue	James & Ingrid	May 1, 2022

Rev. Ann Corbet officiated.

In Memoriam

From 2022 we remember with love these persons and their families.

Jim Braddon

Jim Bristow

Jim Cameron

Ruth Cassells

Eileen Copeland

Joyce Coulbeck

Bill Cox

Doreen Dech

James Dunn

Wally Ewald

Randy Gordon

Kay Granger

Kathleen Hey

Eunice Howell

Nancy Hudson

Bertha McGregor

Gail McHardie

George Mudge

Jim Payne

Stanley Pickering

Shirley Schieck

Terry Toll

Christy Trask

Ross Williams

Robert Wiseman

Shirley Woolley



Message from Lead Minister and Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care

Dear Friends,

The past year saw Siloam return to a kind of “new normal.” With the worst of the pandemic hopefully behind us, we found much to celebrate. There were the eighteen new members who joined our church family this past Fall, a more expansive Urban Garden and richer harvest that enabled us to feed many hungry families and individuals in our community, the arrival in May of our delightful new shared Youth and Young Adult Minister, Marilyn Arthur, and of course the return of our beloved Erin Salter as Office Administrator!

A new year brings with it new opportunities to explore new ministries and to respond to the fresh ways in which God calls us to serve in our changing times. One of the most crucial ways God is calling us into service in 2023 is by inviting us to become an **Affirming Congregation** within the United Church of Canada. Over the past 18 months we have been exploring what this might mean for our church family at Siloam. For more information about why we should become an Affirming ministry, please read Lynn McClary’s very informative report or see <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/why-become-an-affirming-ministry.pdf>. Affirming ministries are not just about being welcoming. Only God can truly welcome us into the family of God; but you and I can play our part by asserting openly and clearly that we are a faith community that strives for God’s justice on earth by actively working toward the healing of creation and by eradicating bias against people of different colours or races, as well as all forms of discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender, age, socio-economic status, or differing abilities. When we vote to become an Affirming Congregation at our Annual Meeting on February 5th, as I pray we will, others in the wider community will know that we are a safe place to worship and find Christian friendship and nurture.

A second vitally important way Siloam is being called to serve is in the area of **Communications**. Through the work of a highly skilled tech team, we have been able to reach countless others in the London community and beyond with the Good News of the Gospel. Every week I hear from people, far and wide, about how much they enjoy our services and would like to learn more about our faith community. Your Church Council has been discussing this since March of 2021. While we will always need our traditional, in-person worship services and study groups, we realize that we can no longer do Church “only” in the old way if we want to be vibrant and vital in the coming decade. We must consider a more hybrid model of doing Church. We have to do a much better job of connecting the story of Jesus Christ to the stories of ordinary, everyday people, many of whom are seeking spiritual answers to the problems and questions that beset them in life. Just as Jesus went to where the people were in his day -- to the lakeshores and hills of Judea – so also we must be prepared to go to where the people are in 2023. (This is what Wesley and many other reformers did too.) This means increasing our digital presence, allowing people to connect virtually not only to worship, but also to Bible study and fellowship groups, to name just a few examples, and to do so by establishing a name or brand that people can trust. This is too big a job for our ministry and administrative staff. What we are recommending therefore is that the congregation consider a one-year pilot project for a half-time Communications Director, funded through grant money and already existing financial resources, who would coach and work closely with our Clergy, Administrative Staff, Church Council and Volunteers. This individual would help us develop and implement multi-channel communications strategies that would best reflect our church’s priorities and enable us to really be “Christ to each other and God’s world.”

Finally, we will need all hands on deck if these new ministries are to succeed and if we are to continue to witness faithfully to the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is why I am so grateful to all of you for the many ways you support Siloam through your prayers, your talents, your time, and your gifts. This is why I am so proud of our wonderful staff team who work so well together and

with such dedication all year long. This is why I am so thankful for our members of Church Council, Trustees, Rose Birrell, and all our various committees and groups who donate so generously of their time and abilities.

This year, sadly, we must say farewell to three of our dedicated Church Council members: Betty Ross, who has represented the Rose Birrell Women's Group with cheerfulness and faithfulness; Allyn Todd, who served as Chair of Trustees for six years and expertly guided us through two amalgamations and who, together with outgoing Trustee Rob Elliott, helped to oversee our financial investments and many other important responsibilities; and last but far from least, Catherine Glover, our Chair of Council, who with grace, wisdom, and unstinting devotion to duty helped us to navigate the challenging waters of the Covid 19 pandemic and was a beacon of hope to many.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve you through another busy and exciting year. I pray that the New Year brings you peace and good health.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor

Lead Minister and Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care

Special thanks to our Members of Church Council and their committees:

2022 Siloam Church Council

Catherine Glover	Chair of Council; Interim Chair of Congregational Resources
Vacant	Chair Elect of Council
Peggy Rivard	Secretary
Dick Huffman	Treasurer
Allyn Todd	Chair of Trustees
Allyn Todd	Interim Chair of Communications (until Fall 2022)
Dave Dunham	Chair of Property
Margaret Smith	Chair of Spiritual Life & Worship
John Davidson	Chair of Outreach and Social Justice
Pauline Newton	Chair of Ministry & Personnel
Anita Elworthy	Chair of Congregational Life
Harla O'Neil	Co-Chair of Congregational Life
Steve Britton	Regional Council Rep.
Betty Ross	Rose Birrell Group

Sheila's Sabbatical – May 1st to July 31st, 2022

Let me begin this report by expressing my profound thanks to all of you at Siloam for making it possible for me to have this much needed time away from my pastoral responsibilities in the late spring and summer of 2022. I had not realized how exhausting the previous two-year COVID pandemic had been for me until I left on May 1st. Thank you to Rev. Ann Corbet for the amazing job she did in ministering to our church family while I was away and to all of you for your continued efforts in supporting the work and witness of Siloam.

Taking its model from the scriptures, The United Church of Canada defines sabbatical as a time away from the regular duties of congregational ministry for the purposes of study, spiritual renewal, personal prayer and rest. Every minister approaches their sabbatical time differently, but all of these components contribute to a healthy sabbatical.

Because I have always been a lifelong learner, my own sabbatical leaned more heavily on my continuing education. Two full-time in-person courses at Martin Luther University College (Wilfrid Laurier University), plus a directed studies course via zoom throughout the spring and summer, involved numerous readings, presentations, case studies, and papers in the fields of pastoral leadership and research methodologies (in my area: boomers and older adult spirituality). I also took some time to prepare for our fall worship services and Bible study, or at least to get a head start on them!

Whenever I undertake coursework, I always try to find classes that align with the vision and ministry of the pastoral charge. A key focus of my studies therefore related to the Affirming Ministry we have been undertaking at Siloam over the past year. I shared some of my learning in my Fall blogs, e-letters and podcasts, but of particular interest was an illuminating seminar on the history and impact of colonization in Canada by a guest presenter from the Indigenous Studies department at Wilfrid Laurier University. An interview with a professor whose focus is on how we treat people with disabilities (Dr. Laura MacGregor, a former Siloam member in the 90s and the mother of a severely disabled son, now recently deceased), taught me much about how people with disabilities are often discriminated against, both in the healthcare system and in church. It filled me with shame to think how the differently abled and their families are often dismissed, but also with pride as I reflect on the wonderful work that Allison O'Connor is doing at Siloam. How we at Siloam continue to create a climate of inclusion, and how we welcome and honour diversity, will need to be a continued focus of our ministry going forward, especially if we want to grow our congregation and thrive. The key is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. MacGregor (no relation!) will be one of our guest speakers in our 2023 worship services, sponsored by our Affirm Ministry.)

This includes how we think about our faith. Some more archaic beliefs that do not represent the beauty and fullness of the gospel will need to be challenged, reformed and even discarded. What does it mean, for example, to consider our central images of God and Christ, as well as other major theological doctrines, from the perspectives of people whose colour, race, social and economic class, gender or sexuality are different from the dominant white, cisgender, heterosexual, western model, and how can the church and its theology become more liberating for the oppressed and marginalized? What is Intersectional Theology (a new learning for me this spring!) and why is it important? And how do we live out of that faith both as a congregation of God's people and as individuals? These are a few of the themes I will try to address over the coming months.

Albeit not a formal part of my theological and pastoral studies, my time away has provided me with an opportunity to worship in a variety of different congregations. This has been spiritually nourishing on a personal level, while also helping me to gather new ideas and new perspectives on worship. On one of our most recent church visits, Richard commented on the great diversity

that exists among the United Church congregations we have visited over the past few months. From large downtown congregations with paid choirs singing Bach, to small rural churches that have a strong sense of community, to contemporary churches with less traditional music and less structured worship formats, there is much to celebrate in this United Church of ours! We heard sermons on everything from the Calvinist understanding of Predestination to Progressive Christian teachings on the scriptures, and even one about body shaming.

Of course, as much as these experiences have been spiritually nurturing and uplifting and have introduced me to new friends, it is always lovely to come home again! Richard and I have both commented numerous times on how blessed we are to have such an exceptionally gifted and well qualified communications team to support our weekly worship services. For example, a visit to a recently modernized and beautiful Episcopalian cathedral church in the heart of Boston had us yearning for audio visual systems that actually work! While we appreciated our visits to a wide variety of churches and learned a great deal from our visits, they nevertheless made us deeply appreciative of the hard work of our very able and talented tech team, the support of good staff and generous volunteers, not to mention the strong outreach programs, warmth and friendliness that have always been hallmarks of the Siloam community, and which reflect our deep roots in the social justice ministry of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Thank you again for your continued support of my ministry and for the opportunity to have this time away for spiritual growth and renewal.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor

Ministry of Visitation

This year I continued to do much visiting by phone and, thankfully, was able to do more “in person” visits as the threat of Covid waned. I facilitated the pastoral care team, the prayer circle, and chaired the Healing and Wellness Committee. As our congregation ages, I find that I am spending more hours assisting Rev Sheila with palliative care and funerals. While Rev Sheila was on sabbatical, (May-July) I enjoyed presiding at many of our worship services and spending extra hours administering pastoral care. It is a privilege and a joy to work at Siloam, with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet, Minister of Visitation

Shared Ministry of Youth and Young Adults

Being in ministry with First-St. Andrew’s, Metropolitan and Siloam United Church since May 16 has been a wonderful opportunity and I am so fortunate to be part of this shared ministry with high school youth, young adults and all of you.

It has been a delight to offer opportunities for high school youth and young adults from the three congregations to come together to share their faith, build relationships and form a community together. The invitation to gather also extends to all the other United Churches in London.

Thank you for sharing this vision together of a new model for youth ministry. I thank the staff, my youth advisory team, and all the wonderful congregational members who have encouraged, supported and helped me as we began this shared ministry together.

Soon after I began this ministry position, I had the opportunity to hire two people through the Canada Summer Jobs grant. Thank you to Siloam for applying for this grant in the Winter of 2022. We hired Austin Campbell and Denver Milner as our youth coordinators. They were employed for 9 weeks at 30 hours/week to help launch this new shared youth and young adult ministry. The three of us spent the summer planning and leading events/activities for high school youth and young adults to come together. We had fun at our events which included mini golfing, karaoke, board games, pub nights for our young adults and offering leadership opportunities for our youth to help lead a theatre and music camp for children in elementary school. We also led a campfire for people of all ages that was full of songs, s'mores and community building. The activities were led using the three different church buildings. Austin and Denver were also involved with working with the church's outreach initiatives such as ELUCO. We also researched and planned ideas for future activities, building our social media presence, and connecting with the youth and young adults. Working with Austin and Denver was an incredible experience. These two people brought a great deal of creativity, passion, energy, initiative and compassion to their summer employment roles. I have such gratitude for the opportunity to know, learn and work with them.

In September we had a wonderful time at the youth weekend retreat held at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. We had 11 youths attend from 4 different congregations. Thank you to the volunteers who helped supervise and lead this weekend. Our focus for the weekend was on community. We explored the importance of community through discussions, games, activities and the use of scripture/biblical stories.

High school youth had three opportunities to gather each month for recreational, outreach and faith development. Siloam and LUSO have a long-standing relationship working together to provide a youth coffee house once a month. These were hosted at Fairmont United Church (which is a campus of Metropolitan's) and moved in October to North London Optimist Centre which is a much easier place for the youth to travel to.

A monthly "Hops and Hope" young adult pub ministry was planned inviting young adults to gather around food and drink to discuss their faith and form relationships. Thanks to Anderson Craft Ales and The Poacher's Arms for their hospitality.

Young adults (19-30) also had the opportunity to gather once a month for recreational and outreach opportunities to share in relationship-building and faith development.

This shared ministry model has started to bring young people together from a variety of different congregations which has been helpful for them to learn and become friends with others all in an environment that they have shared is inclusive, non-judgmental and a place where they can be themselves. Many are grateful for the opportunity to come together to share their faith and their lives together with people who have similar values and beliefs.

With a great deal of gratitude and love,

Marilyn Arthur
Shared Youth and Young Adult Minister
First-St. Andrew's, Metropolitan, Siloam United Church

Message from the Young At Heart



The Young At Heart Group meets each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. All ages and all abilities are welcome! We explore our faith through Music, Art, Drama and Fun. We continue to use Illustrated Ministry as a formal curriculum, and mix it with other meaningful opportunities. Join us in the Library! We showcase

our studies to the congregation at the end of each service. It's an effective way for the congregation and those at home watching on Rogers or on Facebook to witness community in a safe, inclusive and different way. The feedback from the congregation and the community at large has been wonderful!



Dreams Come True Music Studio continued to rehearse virtually and we were thrilled when we returned in person this past April to present the musical Seussical Kids! We also performed High School Musical for our Summer Camp 2022 and most recently performed Winter Wonderland 2022! DCT is very grateful for Siloam's outreach support. We are celebrating 5 years of making a difference with Music. #inclusion #abilitiesfirst #singyoursong



This past December, a group of people from London and surrounding areas teamed up to form our Community of Faith Musical Theatre group. We are very grateful, to a couple from Metropolitan United Church who donated funds to purchase the musical. All of us participating volunteered our time and talents and we had a fantastic turnout for our showcase concert. The musical On Our Way To Bethlehem was well received and we look forward to hopefully continuing this new tradition of sharing our faith through music with all ages and all abilities.



*Respectfully submitted by Allison O'Connor,
Young At Heart Coordinator*

Church Council

I end my year and term as Chair of Council with gratitude. I will touch on specific people who are so deserving of thanks, some highlights of activities and Ministries and finally a look ahead. I would like to express my thanks and deep appreciation to our exemplary Clergy and Staff who have, yet again during a challenging year, provided wonderful service and leadership to the Congregation of Siloam United Church.

I am also grateful to the many dedicated volunteers, who, during this challenging time have contributed to the Life and Mission of our Church. Volunteers at Siloam enrich the life of our Church. Specifically, I am grateful to the dedicated members of Church Council who have provided leadership to Siloam this year.

We welcomed Rev. Sheila Macgregor back this Fall after her Sabbatical Leave and have continued to benefit from her dedication and leadership in book/bible studies, Pastoral Care and Worship and her weekly podcasts and blogs. As our Lead Minister, Sheila has been a constant and steady support to many of us during these difficult COVID times. On a personal note, I would like to thank Sheila for her support to me as Chair of Council during my Term.

We are grateful for the dedicated Pastoral Care Ministry of Rev Ann Corbet and the support she provides to many congregants. Ann has also led the Healing and Wellness Team who regularly provide very meaningful events.

We are grateful for the fine musical leadership of our Music Director, Blythe George. Her leadership of the Choir and sharing a musical piece after each Worship Service are great blessings to us.

We welcomed Erin Salter back as our Office Administrator. Erin continues to provide excellent support to all of us and runs a very efficient Office.

We are blessed to have Allison O'Connor's leadership of the Young at Heart on Sunday mornings and continue to enjoy their contribution to meaningful Worship. Siloam is proud to continue to host the Dreams Come True Studio for their rehearsals and performances.

We were delighted to welcome Marilyn Arthur as our Minister of Youth and Young Adults this year. Marilyn has injected great enthusiasm to this Partnership Ministry which we share with Metropolitan and First St. Andrews United Churches. We are already seeing the impact as numbers of Youth and Young Adults attending programs continues to grow.

Dave and Claire Graham returned as our Custodial Team. We are truly blessed to have their dedicated service and care of our building.

Anne Wheatly, our Bookkeeper, continues to perform an excellent job of keeping our financial picture in order.

Some Highlights from the Year:

As a Church Council we have had a front row seat to observe the re-emergence of some of our beloved activities during the year and some new ones as well. We began the year with several successful "take out" dinners and then enjoyed the Annual Chicken BBQ this Fall. We launched our Partnership Ministry (with FSA and Metropolitan) for Youth and Young Adults this year and welcomed Marilyn Arthur to lead this vibrant Ministry. Our Garden Ministry continues to thrive and this year helped alleviate food insecurity by supplying fresh food to over 1000 people. A successful clothing drive, white gift Sunday and Christmas Bazaar were welcomed back as well.

Just as importantly, we have continued our support for the World and wider Community through our contributions to ELUCO, the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada and LIRSA. Our Communication Team has expanded the communication portfolio and each week we reach more and more people with our Message and Ministry.

Healing and Wellness: Along with successful workshops, Siloam now hosts Ageless Grace, Pickelball and Walk Fit Classes every week and participation is high.

Over the summer we provided employment for 11 young people (with financial support from Canada Summer Jobs) both in our Garden and with our Youth/Young Adult Ministry and we lived into our values by paying them a living wage.

We were successful in garnering support for our Vision by acquiring multiple Grants totalling \$65,983.

We continued our work toward becoming an Affirming Ministry and hope that the Motion to be an Affirming Congregation will pass at our AGM in February. We are grateful to both Lynn McClary and Rev. Sheila for their Leadership in this Ministry.

We resumed musical concerts and enjoyed many fine performances throughout the year.

Finally, as my term as Chair comes to a close, I look forward to remaining on Council as Past Chair and Chair of Congregational Resources Committee. Exciting days lay ahead. It is my hope that we will become an Affirming Congregation at our AGM. There are also several strategic decisions which the Congregation can make which will further leverage our activities in realizing our Vision. For instance, I hope that Siloam will expand the Communication portfolio. The impact of our Ministries through our weekly Broadcasts, Rev Sheila's podcasts, Stu's reflections, and our web site accessibility is far reaching and beyond our walls. Recruiting a Communication Specialist to our team is an important step to continue to expand our Ministries and increase our reach.

The financial health of the Church will continue to be a focus with a major Giving Campaign this year accompanied by an ongoing focus on Grant acquisition.

I close as I began, in gratitude. It has been an honor to serve as Chair of Council. It has been exciting to work with so many wonderful people and see the activities of the Church year.

I encourage anyone who is interested in the life of the Church and seeks a meaningful volunteer role to consider this role. You might even wish to co chair with another volunteer. Give me a call and I would be happy to discuss the opportunity with you.

God is with us, we are not Alone. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted:

Catherine Glover
Chair of Church Council

Report from Antler River Watershed Region

2022 Regional Representative Antler River Watershed Region Report

Report not available at time of printing.

Respectfully submitted by Steven Britton, Regional Council Rep.

LIFE AND WORK OF SILOAM UNITED CHURCH

Property Committee

The Property Committee has had an unusual year, as per all of our church committees and group activities due to Covid. The year opened up in the second half with the relaxation of restrictions around gatherings.

We would like to thank Chad Brown for his duties as our interim custodian helping us bridge over a very difficult period in church activities.

We welcomed back Dave and Claire Graham to full time custodial duties. However, due to unexpected health issues in the fall, Dave has taken an extended leave as he recuperates. We wish him well, and a speedy recovery. Claire has stepped in and is very much appreciated for her commitment to the church.

We have accomplished some tasks, even with Covid restrictions. We did forego the Pancake Supper in 2022, but hope to have a return to it soon. The fire alarm system was replaced this year, since we had a malfunction in one of the component boards and replacement parts were not available, making necessary a complete upgrade.

We also added some security cameras to our system.

Future projects will include upgrades to our refrigerator and freezers, and replacement of the outside doors for the kitchen and the storeroom. This effort will be partially funded by the Faithful Footprints grant, as we pursue greater energy efficiency for our building and its contents.

Church rentals are now increasing with extra groups such a Pickleball and Exercise classes, and the return of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

I would personally like to thank all the members of the committee for their faithful service and support of church life. We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone to join our committee.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Dunham, Chair, Property Committee

Ministry and Personnel

As the human resources department at Siloam we deal with all staff members and their job responsibilities, as well as their interactions with members of the congregation. For the most part the work of this committee is confidential as we consult with and support staff, regularly look at job descriptions and responsibilities, and make recommendations to Council when necessary.

Two thousand and twenty-two was a busy year with more staff changes. Effective the end of March our office administrator, Wendy Sibley, made the decision to resign from the position for personal reasons. We were very fortunate that our former long-time office administrator, Erin Salter, was available and agreed to resume the position April 1st. Welcome back Erin! We were equally fortunate that our former custodial staff, Dave and Claire Graham, approached us about returning to their previous duties. They had closed their cleaning services company during Covid and Dave came on staff as a Siloam employee effective April 1st. Unfortunately, Dave has suffered some health issues and is currently on medical leave but Claire continues to keep our building clean and shiny. Thank you, Dave and Claire.

This past year Rev. Sheila took an entitled three month sabbatical from May 1st to July 31st. During Sheila's absence, Rev. Ann took on the additional responsibility of leading worship and providing pastoral care to the congregation. We want to thank Ann for her additional leadership during this time period allowing Sheila a much needed break for rest, study and rejuvenation.

The Committee conducted performance reviews with all of our staff and made recommendations for salary adjustments which were presented to council. The annual contracts for our part-time employees were also drawn up and signed.

I would like to personally thank all of our staff for the outstanding job that they do here at Siloam. We are fortunate to have such a talented and caring team.

Respectfully submitted by Pauline Newton, Chair of Ministry & Personnel

M&P Committee

Pauline Newton – Chair
Rosemary Todd
Jane Ridley
Elaine Woodley
John Davidson
Brian MacKinnon

Spiritual Life and Worship

The committee included Margaret Smith (Chair), Peggy Dunham (Secretary), Maureen McGauley, Linda Peeling, Heather Vosper and staff representatives, Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Allison O'Connor and Blythe George.

Again this past year disruptions to the delivery of services and programs continued into 2022, and we thank all those who continued to carry out the ministry of Siloam, including our ministry team, our communications team, Linda Peeling, who is now organizing our scripture readers, and many volunteers. Also a big thank you to Blythe George, our choir and all our soloists who assisted with the services.

Thank you to Lorraine Huffman and her team for decorating the sanctuary, to John and Jane Davidson for looking after banners, to support from Erin Salter and to Wendy Leach for the beautiful poinsettias at Christmas. A special note of appreciation is extended to Judy Hunt who, for many years, has prepared the communion elements for services.

We also extend appreciation to those who helped with our 165th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, October 18. We welcomed Rev. Diane MacPherson as our guest speaker and appreciated the help of the property committee and Springhill Flowers.

I am also pleased to report, while sometimes under difficult circumstances, our ministry team continued to offer book studies, special programs for children and youth, and special programs for children and youth to respond to the needs of our congregation.

Please contact any member of our committee if you can help us in any way.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Smith, Chair, Spiritual Life & Worship

Affirming Ministry Committee

At its June meeting in 2021, council voted unanimously to begin the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry. Affirming Ministries are communities of faith and other ministries within the United Church that declare, in words and actions, that God loves and celebrates all people and that call upon the rest of the church and society to do the same. A committee was formed to begin the journey of education and discernment that will lead to a decision by the congregation at our annual meeting in 2023 on becoming an Affirming Ministry.

Worship services throughout the year included reflections on Different Abilities, Truth and Reconciliation, Racism, and Homophobia. A special service with Rev. Kerry Stover and The London Pride Men's Chorus was celebrated on Pride Sunday, June 5, 2022.

We had a concert that celebrated love, with inclusive decorations and themes.

We had a six-week study in February and March based on Mel White's "What the Bible Says – And Doesn't Say – about Homosexuality" that examined scripture passages that have been used against homosexuality and provided an understanding of current issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We continued our participation in Pride Parade and this year twelve London United Churches joined together for the parade, with plans to organize this again in 2023.

Affirm themes were also addressed in weekly blogs and podcasts by Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor that reach out to our congregation and beyond. Many of Stu Cunningham's posts were also very informative about Affirm issues.

During January 2023, we presented six "Minute for Affirm" messages during worship and had three worship services to enrich our understanding of Affirm concerns.

If we make the decision to become an Affirming Ministry, we will commit to being public, intentional, and explicit in seeking to live into a vision of justice and inclusion for all God's people.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn McClary, Chair, Affirming Ministry Committee

Boomer and Older Adult Education Team

Special Events: *Expressions of Love*

The Boomer and Older Adult Education Team held one special event in 2022, the *Expressions of Love* concert in April. Through music and poetry this concert explored the many ways we express love for ourselves and others. Back by popular demand were beloved singer/songwriter/pianist Kelly Walker and the extraordinarily talented actor/singer Breanne Dietrich. A new face included gifted Boomer poet and performer David Stones, who challenged us to think outside the box and enlarged our vision by inviting us to see things we often fail to see. Stones described his poems in the following verse:

*Not so the lines I write.
They mostly writhe like
moths too close to flame,
twisting into shapes
I scarcely recognize, the
wretched little monsters of love
they've always wanted to be.*

Bible and Book Studies

WINTER 2022

In the Winter of 2022, Lynn McClary, Chair of our Affirm Committee, and Sheila Macgregor co-facilitated a six-week study on those scripture passages that refer to same sex relations. Nearly 20 people joined us for these interesting sessions which explored the ways in which the Bible has often been misunderstood and manipulated to hurt our LGBTQ2+ siblings. People shared deeply from their personal experiences and many felt that their concerns had been heard and affirmed.

FALL 2022

Approximately 15 to 18 people joined us for Amy-Jill Levine's book and video-study led by Sheila Macgregor: "The Difficult Words of Jesus. A Beginner's Guide of His Most Perplexing Teachings." Lively discussions ensued around such topics as "Sell Everything You Own", "Hate Your Father and Mother", to name just a couple of the challenging themes we discussed. We learned the importance of reading the scriptures within their historical, literary, cultural and linguistic contexts – and also had some fun along the way!

ADVENT STUDY

A more intimate group shared in our Advent video study by Adam Hamilton INCARNATION: REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS. This four-week Bible study was led by Sheila Macgregor and explored the historical and theological meanings behind the various names of Christ and the difference he makes in our lives.

PLEASE NOTE: You are most welcome to attend any of our study groups at Siloam. We often enjoy lively discussions, share lots of laughs and even a few tears. No previous knowledge of the Bible is required. While we do recommend the NEW REVISED STANDARD or NEW INTERNATIONAL versions of the Bible for study purposes, you may bring your own favourite with you if you prefer. In our library at Siloam there are also many copies of the Good News Bible which were purchased for the Sunday School which you are most welcome to use.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor

Healing and Wellness Ministry

This committee is passionate about promoting holistic health, insisting that physical, emotional and spiritual health are profoundly interconnected. This year, the exercise programs - cardio workout, pickleball, and Ageless Grace - enjoyed success. In February and March, Grace Tallman, our resident mental health and grief expert, hosted a 3-part zoom event on "Anxiety, Depression and Resilience" which was attended by dozens of people. In the Fall, Grace facilitated an 8-week grief support program. Grace's programs successfully attract folks from the wider community. The Healing and Wellness Committee hosted an in-person event in November on "Approaching the End of Life". This event was extremely well attended and well received by the wider community. This event featured 5 guest speakers, including Rev Dr Anne Beattie-Stokes, Jayne Dill (end of life doula), Wendy Boyle (palliative resource nurse), Dr Eunice Gorman (chair of thanatology dept, King's University College) and our own Christy Trask (living with a diagnosis of terminal cancer). We were deeply saddened by the death of Christy in December. Christy was a valued member of our committee. Our members include: Rev Janelle Towle, David Dillon, Janet Liefso, Andrea Gillan, Janice Faith.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet, Chair

Pastoral Care Team

The members of the pastoral care team do great work! They are Judi Emery, Lorna Carnegie, Rick Prince, Rev Carol Reardon-Smith, and Karen Moffat. At Easter and Christmas time, the team sent out approximately 65 cards to folks who are housebound and have serious medical conditions. The Easter card was hand-designed by the team. The Christmas card was a photo of our decorated chancel. Thanks to Erin for all her assistance with the Christmas card! In between holy days, the team members sent "thinking of you" cards. The team was especially helpful to me in the months of May, June and July. They made many phone calls to our congregational members while I was busy covering for Rev Sheila during her sabbatical.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Prayer Circle

The prayer circle began in May 2021 and gained momentum in 2022. I am so thankful for the members of the prayer circle! Our "pray-ers" included Rev Janelle Towle, Rev Camillia Larouche, Rev Christina Boyd, Heather Vosper, Jane Hilton, Connie Jervis, Lorraine Reid, Peggy Rivard, Elizabeth Campbell and Joyce Coulbeck. We were saddened by Joyce's passing in September. Once a week I sent out names to prayer circle members and the "pray-ers" surrounded these individuals with prayer. Those who are on the prayer list frequently ask for anonymity, so we prayed on a first name basis only (unless given permission to do otherwise). We prayed not only for Siloam members and their family and friends, but also for those in the larger community, often remembering those who were struck by tragedy. I encourage Siloam members to send prayer requests to me. We welcome new members to the prayer circle.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Ministry of Music

The 2021-2022 season for Siloam's music groups was one with much fluctuation and uncertainty, but our singers and players persevered, culminating in a vibrant program into the spring.

In January, contact was limited so services were pre-recorded. Blythe and a number of soloists prepared music throughout the week, including the hymns, for worship. At the beginning of February, the choir was polled about coming back to sing in person. We returned to in-person worship at the start of February, as well as Thursday night rehearsals. We had an excellent turnout of twenty singers! During this time, two books of simpler anthems were purchased to accommodate the changeable size of the choir from week to week. Even so, attendance remained steady, with a few still feeling tentative about singing in light of COVID, and with others away occasionally for various reasons. By the end of winter, the progress seemed positive and spirits were feeling lifted as our music endeavours were revived after the darkest months of COVID left us unable to perform our cantata and worship together during the Christmas seasons. Our Easter season featured a number of special performances, including solos by Al Newton and Thomas Smithson, and accompaniments on violin by Alice Zacharias and on trumpet by Amy Gallant. At the end of June, the choir began early work on the Christmas cantata, supported by new and newly-returning choir members eager to sing.

During the spring the choir room was outfitted with cardboard mailboxes for each singer to keep their materials in, including folders, music, pencils, and hymn books. To facilitate singers having access to their own markings and notes, each choir member was assigned a copy on loan of Voices United, More Voices, the anthem books, and the Christmas cantata "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem." Blythe placed a whiteboard in the choir room to provide information about upcoming service music as well as notes relating to rehearsals. Black masks have been donated by various choir members to ensure we always have stock.

In the summer months we featured different soloists each week. Allison O'Connor filled in for Blythe while she took her vacation. In September, our newly unmasked choir hit the ground running, balancing the preparation of weekly service music and the Christmas cantata. A new element was added to Sunday services in the form of an Introit, a choral welcoming at the start of worship. Another initiative introduced was a monthly "choir soiree", an opportunity for choir members to mingle at the end of practice on the last Thursday of the month with monthly volunteers providing goodies. The idea was very well-received. Sadly, our first soiree ended with a bout of COVID sweeping through our ranks. While this was discouraging, we are very relieved that everyone came through the ordeal well enough (though some folks are dealing with the lingering symptoms of long COVID). Rehearsals were postponed for two weeks to facilitate recovery and reduce risk of spreading. The choir has since been gathering with masks once again. Despite setbacks, we enjoyed a rousing Anniversary Sunday with fiddle music provided by Jesse Grandmont. This was a real treat for all involved and those who attended alike. Toward Advent, rehearsals were extended to two hours. To support at-home practicing of the cantata, Blythe provided accompaniment CDs that highlighted individual parts. Both the men's and the women's sections of the choir prepared songs for our December concert. Sunday services were followed by drop-in rehearsals to allow choristers to sing through the cantata start-to-finish, a demanding task requiring much training and stamina, especially after two years of COVID-style living. Blythe prepared a slideshow to accompany the cantata, as well as a flier to be circulated in the community. She also organized a number of performances by members of our Siloam Choir as well as violinist Alice Zacharias. Our phenomenal narrator Tracey Brown also served as our Master of Ceremonies. Her charisma and added research very much enriched our presentation. Leading up to our show and throughout, Allyn Todd and Deepak Lama took care of audio-visual nuances, including the renting of monitors to help singers hear the recorded accompaniment. Deepak was ever-present, ever-working and very responsive throughout our practices and performances. His efforts were invaluable and played a key role in the success of the "Lead Me

Back to Bethlehem” cantata. We are also grateful to those who helped transform the sanctuary to enable the choir to sing in front of the pews. The show was intimate, a bit smaller compared with pre-COVID times, but Blythe could not have been prouder of the Siloam choir. They acquired some new skills and rose to the challenge of singing to a recorded accompaniment, which is, in a way, like singing “unaccompanied” since the piano was not there for added support. This experience was a testament to what our new Siloam Choir can and will accomplish in the months and years ahead. From your director: well done! The year wound down with a revival of “Treasures of the Heart” from our cantata at the Christmas Eve service, and a Sunday Christmas Day at home. Blythe looks forward to new challenges and adventures in 2023.

Submitted by Blythe George

Siloam Sounds Bell Choir

In February of 2022, Peggy Dunham gathered a number of interested ringers to prepare music for our Easter service. This led to semi-weekly rehearsals culminating in performances on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. In the spring, the bell choir was temporarily paused and has not yet resumed. We wish to approach renewing the ensemble with new members and old, opening up the opportunity to ring to our Siloam community and beyond. We look forward to hearing the joyous sound of the bells in 2023.

Submitted by Blythe George

Congregational Life

A major accomplishment for our committee this year was the organization of a new church directory. This time we had two registration periods, August and October, which seemed to work out well for everyone. A big THANK YOU to Peggy Rivard who did the heavy lifting and all our volunteers who made sure the process ran smoothly.

The committee hosted another lunch for our Urban Garden volunteers during the summer and provided refreshments during the Shane Cook concert. With an outbreak of Covid at the church, a very busy fall season of social events, including coffee service, was cancelled. Once again, we hope that “normality” returns in 2023.

Sadly, two of our long-standing members decided to resign after many, many years of dedicated service. We wish Judy Hunt and Ruth Webb well and say “thank you” for all you have done for the committee and the church over the years.

The committee is now down to five active members—and looking for new volunteers. If you believe that hospitality is an important ministry at Siloam and would like to help please contact Harla O’Neill jfoneil@rogers.com or me, Anita Elworthy aelworthy2@gmail.com.

*Respectfully submitted by Harla O’Neill and Anita Elworthy
(Co-chairs of the Congregational Life Committee)*

Movie Group

Finally, after two and a half years of Covid, our Siloam Movie Group ventured out again in the Fall of 2022. Our first movie was "Ticket to Paradise" and was attended by approximately 12 to 15 people. Afterwards we enjoyed some light refreshments at Tim Horton's.

We are glad to be back and look forward to enjoying more monthly movies (usually the second Friday evening of every month, except during December, July and August) in the coming year. We hope you will join us! Just let us know if you need a ride. You are most welcome! And we would love to hear suggestions for what you would like to see. Thank you.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor

The Rose Birrell Women's Group

We were fortunate to be able to hold regular meetings in 2022. We have 26 members. Sadly, two of our long-time members passed away in 2022 – Kay Granger and Doreen Dech. With the money from the Kay Granger Fund, we had a stained glass wall hanging designed in her memory. It is hanging in the library-chapel facing the Rose Birrell Garden.

We were also fortunate to hold a successful Santa Shoppe Bazaar in November, as well as a Ham and Scalloped Potato supper in April.

We enjoyed getting some delicious soup recipes at one meeting, listening to Marilyn Arthur speak, and learning the art of Zentangle. We enjoyed a catered luncheon both in June and December and were entertained by Gloria Whitlaw at the December luncheon.

We made an annual donation to the Siloam General Fund of \$5000, as well as \$2000 from the proceeds of the Ham and Scalloped Potato supper. We donated to the United Church M&S fund, the Lenten Project, ELUCO, Wellspring, and the Rose Birrell Garden. We donated paper products to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee and white socks to 519 Pursuit. We purchased stamps for the Pastoral Care Committee to send greeting cards to the shut-ins and we sponsored an ELUCO family of three at Christmas. We mailed out 65 sympathy and get-well cards to members of the congregation. Margaret Smith and her sister, Rhonda McLay, made pillowcases as a COVID project and the proceeds of the sale, in the amount of \$500, went to the Rose Birrell Group.

We wish to thank all of the members of the congregation who help us with our many projects. We couldn't do it without you! We meet the first Thursday of each month at 1pm (no meetings in January, July and August). All women are welcome to join us!

Rose Birrell Quilters' Group

The quilters returned to quilting in February 2022, took a break during July and August, and returned to quilting every Monday in early September. We enjoyed a variety of projects that individuals brought to us and making quilted items for the bazaar. We welcomed new members and enjoyed the fellowship of quilting together.

*Respectfully submitted by:
Margaret Smith, Enid Wilson and Jo-Ann Gramlich*

Trustees

The mission of the Board of Trustees is to help protect and preserve the physical assets of the church, and to manage funds appropriately and with respect for the benefit of the congregation in accordance with Siloam's Financial Management Plan which is available for viewing or downloading on Siloam's website <https://siloamunitedchurch.org/trustees-financial-management-plan/>. Funds managed by the Trustees include resources donated in memory of or in honor of any person or event, and any monies received from the sale of Siloam's physical assets. All money managed by the Trustees is accounted for in their Memorial and Celebration of Life Fund. Currently the Trustees manage investments valued at approximately \$688,259. Most of this amount is from the sale of real estate assets of Arva United Church and Birr United Church who amalgamated with Siloam in 2017 and 2018 respectively. It is important for the Siloam congregation to understand the conditions that exist regarding the use of these amalgamation funds. The conditions are:

1. None of the money received from the amalgamations can be used for operational expenses at Siloam, such as maintenance, annual service charges, or salaries, except for condition #2 which follows.
2. \$350,000 was originally invested on a long-term basis to generate earnings to support the housing allowance component of Siloam's ministers' salaries.
3. \$214,000 is currently invested on a short-term basis so it can be available when needed for capital improvements and for providing resources to enrich and expand programs at Siloam.
4. Of the \$214,000 in a short-term deposit (STD), \$100,000 has been designated as security for Siloam's Line of Credit. Although not accessible to be withdrawn, it remains as part of the STD and the full \$214,000 is earning interest into the Trustee's bank account.

Additionally, a current (as of Dec 31, 2022) balance of \$75,782 has accumulated over time from bank interest along with bequests and donations received in memory of or in honor of a person or event. This money is divided into 6 Designated Funds and one Non-Designated Fund in accordance with where the donor wishes their contribution to be made. For a complete description of each of these Funds, please refer to the *Designated Memorial Funds Policy* and the *Granting of Funds Policy* in the Siloam United Church Financial Management Plan. A brief summary of the 6 Designated Funds managed by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation of Siloam is as follows:

1. The Hudson Fund – for chancel enhancement
2. The Bruzas Fund – for cantata choral music and upgrading of a piano when required
3. The Echlin Scholarship Fund for Instrumental Students – scholarships for music student instrumentalists/performers
4. The Choir Scholarship Fund – scholarships for vocal music students to participate in the Siloam choir (sponsorship for this fund by the anonymous originator was discontinued in 2020)
5. The Beckstead/Newton/Johnson/McCurdy Fund – to support Music in the Church (e.g. youth, choir, bell choir, etc.)
6. The Choir Fund – to support the needs of the Siloam choirs

Anyone can contribute to these Designated Funds with memorial gifts or bequests. However, the Trustees also receive gifts in memory of a person or celebrating an event and which are not directed to one of the Designated Funds. Such gifts are placed in a Non-Designated Fund and distributed from time to time for capital projects at Siloam with Council's approval.

In 2022 several projects have been funded by the Trustees from the Non-Designated Fund: upgrade of the sanctuary computer; replacement of the Fire Alarm Panel; upgrade of the sanctuary projector; completion of the Siloam website upgrade; and replacement of the Library/Chapel TV and DVD player as the old ones were at end of life.

It is a major responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the church property is always adequately insured. The 2023 insurance policy for Siloam was renewed Dec 1 for 2022 with McFarlan-Rowlands insurance broker. The cost of insurance is paid from Siloam's Operating Account but the Trustees oversee obtaining the policy and ensure adequate coverage is maintained. The United Church of Canada provides Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Cyber Liability Protection free of charge to all United Churches. These endorsements are therefore not required to be purchased annually, reducing the annual cost by approximately \$500.

Each year, contributions are made to the Operating Account from the Designated Funds in keeping with the intended purpose of each Fund. The total amount that the Trustees committed from all managed Funds to the Operating Account budget for 2022 was \$17,500, including \$13,000 for the ministers' housing allowance salary component from investment earnings. The full Board of Trustees for 2023 will consist of the persons named in the table below, listed in order of Final Year of Board membership. The Trustee executive for 2023 is comprised of Acting Chair (Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor), Secretary (Heather Vosper) and Interim Treasurer (Allyn Todd). Allyn Todd and Rob Elliott are retiring from the Board of Trustees as their terms have been completed. Until a successor Treasurer is named, Allyn will temporarily continue the Treasurer responsibilities. It is not necessary to be a member of the Board of Trustees to act as Treasurer.

The following table is presented for acceptance by the Siloam congregation as the Board of Trustees Membership for 2023.

Siloam Board of Trustees for 2023		
Name	Start Year	End Year
Dave Kloppenburg	2018	2024
Maureen McGauley	2020	2025
Bruce Challis	2022	2025
Ken Harding	2022	2025
Heather Vosper	2020	2026
Al Newton	2023	2026
Dave Peeling	2023	2026
Sheila Macgregor	2007	NA

Note: All memberships in the Board of Trustees start and end at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February of the years indicated in the table unless otherwise approved by the Antler River Watershed Region. Congregational approval is mandatory for members to be added to or released from the Board.

Remarks from the Board of Trustees Chair

Siloam's team of Trustees continue to work during the year on behalf of the congregation to manage investments and Funds appropriately. Siloam's Financial Management Plan guides our processes for the receiving of contributions, management of investments, and granting of funds. A review of our investments for 2022 confirms that we are meeting our financial targets for these types of investments.

In spite of the Covid pandemic, through the use of Zoom technology the Trustees have been able to meet as required. As I conclude my term of office and my role as Chair of Trustees, it has been my privilege to work with a team of committed people on this Board. I leave the Board with a feeling of gratitude for how all members of the Board have supported me and Siloam during my tenure. Siloam is extremely fortunate to have such capable people on their Board of Trustees.

Trustees Financial Report

The Trustees 2022 Annual Financial Report is given on the following page.

Respectfully submitted by Allyn Todd, Chair, Board of Trustees

2022 Annual Financial Report - Siloam Trustees			
Memorial & Celebration of Life Fund			
Opening Libro Bank Account Balance Jan 1, 2022			\$82,147.32
Opening Fund Balance Jan 1, 2022 (Excluding Investments and Liabilities)			\$82,147.32
Investments & Liabilities as of Jan 1, 2022			
	Investment - Libro Short-Term deposit	\$214,000.00	
	Investment - Canoe Financial (market value)	\$480,183.13	
	Liabilities	\$0.00	
2022 Income			
	Memorial & Celebration of Life Fund Donations	\$4,816.42	
	Christmas Cantata	\$329.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$17,126.31	
	Bank Interest Earned	\$103.61	
	HST Rebates	\$273.23	
	Refunds	\$300.00	
Total 2022 Income			\$22,948.57
2022 Expenses			
	Outstanding Cheques at Dec 31, 2022	-\$3,387.50	
	Library/Chapel TV/DVD replacement	\$564.98	
	Trustees contribution to Music and musicians	\$2,000.00	
	Sanctuary Projector Purchase	\$9,676.29	
	M&S Contribution for 2021 (2022 not yet submitted)	\$398.00	
	Young Adult Ministry Shared Expense	\$500.00	
	Office Expense	\$409.67	
	Website Upgrade Final Payment	\$2,007.15	
	Ministers Housing Allowance	\$13,000.00	
	Sanctuary Computer Purchase	\$620.12	
	Christmas Cantata Expense	\$137.50	
Total 2022 Expenses			\$25,926.21
Closing Fund Balance Dec 31, 2022 (Excluding Investments and Liabilities)			\$79,169.68
Investments & Liabilities as of Dec 31, 2022			
	Investment - Libro Short-Term deposit	\$214,000.00	
	Investment - Canoe Financial (market value)	\$474,259.37	
	Liabilities		
Closing Libro Bank Account Balance Dec 31, 2022			\$79,169.68

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

Social Justice and Outreach Committee

The committee has continued with its vision to have at least one local and one international project.

Projects and Initiatives:

This year's Lenten project was to raise money for the outreach budget at Siloam, which supports programs in Canada and around the world. In excess of \$9000.00 was raised for this cause. On the local level, White Gift Sunday resulted in significant contributions to Children's Aid, the women's shelter, and ELUCO.

Thanks to Judi Emery and her team over 160 lunches were made at Siloam and delivered to the Ark Aid meal program.

Siloam has also partnered with Ark Aid to collect donations of winter clothing, blankets etc. Very generous donations have been received and delivered.

Siloam outreach continues to support ELUCO (\$12,000), LUSO (\$500) and LIRSA (\$1000) along with the mission and service fund (\$25,000).

Thanks also to Sharon Ashton and her team who to continue to provide Welcome Wednesday lunches at Rowntree United Church.

Siloam members also provide volunteers to run an out of the cold supper at St John the Evangelist church four times a year.

Sponsorship of Refugees:

Siloam has entered a co-sponsorship relationship to sponsor Maher Ghazi and his wife Salma, and two small children, Perla and Beshar. This family has fled Syria and is now in Turkey. This family has now been approved for immigration. We hope they will arrive in 2023.

Canada Food Grains - Continuing our Support:

Foodgrains Impact Statement 2022

"Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end world hunger by providing emergency food in times of crisis, helping people improve their access to food in the longer-term, and engaging Canadians and governments toward meaningful change." This year Siloam's Growing Project contributed \$14,373.78 which, if used for food assistance, will be matched by the Canadian government at a ratio of 4:1 (up to \$25 million each year). Our project is made possible by the generous donation of the use of the land by Mary Jo Fraleigh and the McClary family for the donation of seed and chemicals.

Every day we see evidence of Siloam members being Christ to each other and in God's World on both the local and international level. We also acknowledge every Sunday the sacred territory on which Siloam meets.

Respectfully submitted by John Davidson, Chair, Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Siloam's Outreach to Newcomers to Canada

LIRSA (London Interfaith Refugee Sponsorship Alliance) was thrilled to welcome the Rahimi family to London on September 22, 2022. Ali (Dad), Halime (Mom), Amir (son aged 11) and Mesume (aged 2) had been in Turkey for the last three years waiting for their applications to be approved by UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and the Canadian government. We received word in May that we were matched with the family but it did take until almost the end of September before we were able to meet them in Toronto.

I don't think I need to explain that LIRSA had difficulties in securing an apartment for them that would be within financial means and also in a good geographical location. We are extremely grateful to Pam George (one of Siloam's choir members and Blythe's Mom) who offered to house the family from the time of their arrival until they were ready to move into an apartment on November 1.

When we learned we were guaranteed an apartment for the first of November, we enrolled Amir in the school he would be attending the day after Thanksgiving Monday. Amir is learning English quickly and enjoys school. His Dad is enrolled in an ESL course and is helping some of the others in the class with Farsi > English translation!!! ESL classes with daycare spots are very limited so Halime and Mesume are at home at this time. One of the other LIRSA members is helping Halime with one-on-one tutoring.

We are grateful for the financial support received from Siloam once again this year. Other member churches offering their support are Colborne Street United, Riverside United, St. George's Anglican and St. Jude's Anglican. In addition, LIRSA would like to thank individuals at Siloam for their financial gifts and gifts of furniture, clothing, household items, etc. Every donation means a lot. Please see me if you would be interested in helping the members of the family in a way that is meaningful to you.

Because LIRSA is a very small group of individuals from the five above-mentioned churches, we would be thrilled to have new people join us. Let me know if I can be of any help to you in offering more information about the work of LIRSA.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Rivard, Treasurer of LIRSA

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ELUCO 2022 Annual Report

Armed with God's gift of Hope, we moved into a New Year that we hoped would be less challenging for Nancy, the Marconi community and the ELUCO Board than the previous two. Once again COVID reared its ugly head and we were back to conducting activities as we had for the past two years. Board issues were dealt with through emails and telephone calls while Nancy continued her work through front porch meetings and phone conversations. With school on hold she continued to provide activity packs for children as well as recipes and ingredients that they could make at home. Her porch meetings were followed up with phone calls or on-line connections to relevant agencies not yet open for regular communications. As COVID eased its tenacious grip Nancy was able to serve a small group inside the unit for lunch program as well as offering take out to others. Breakfast snacks were also distributed as take-out. Due to limited space in the unit the Outreach Team from London Public Library was able to offer books and activities to children outdoors. Nancy also offered outdoor activities for the children over the summer. Youth requested assistance with creating resumes and cover letters and Nancy

provided one-on-one help with this. Anxiety and Depression continue to be an issue for a number of individuals and Nancy was able to provide additional strategies and resources to help them cope. Over the summer we had one counsellor at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee and one child. In order to attend camp the children had to be fully vaccinated and Nancy was surprised to learn that a large number of the Marconi children were not vaccinated. Fifteen children were referred and sponsored to Stevenson`s Children`s Camp near Dorchester. Two first year Fanshawe College students received funding for books or tuition from our ELUCO Post-Secondary Education Scholarship Fund. In October Nancy received a donation of pumpkins from our pumpkin lady which she donated to families for the annual Halloween festivities. In November we began registration for our annual Christmas Share program. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of UCWs, member churches, Jansen Christmas Toy Drive and individuals, Nancy was able to provide gifts and food or gift cards to 103 families. Thanks to all who supported us – your generosity made it possible!

Over the summer and early fall Nancy was asked to share the ELUCO message at four different churches. Her challenge for these services was to prepare the entire service including music and prayers with the help of the worship teams. Feedback on her messages was glowing! Thank you Nancy!

Thanks to a United Church Council/ Hope Council grant the ELUCO board was able to have a promotional video produced. In early January the Siloam Audio Video team comprised of Allyn Todd, Wib Dawson and Christine Taleski presented us with the final version. Take a few moments (4 ½ minutes) to view our new video on our website www.eluco.ca and be sure to let us know what you think! We want to express our thanks to the community members who played such an integral role in the making of this video.

In March the Board was finally able to meet in-person at Rowntree United for our monthly meeting. It was decided to postpone our AGM from April to June and hold it outside at Siloam United Church. Our annual fundraiser – Walk and Roll for Families – was held in Spring bank Park on the last Sunday in September. Although our numbers were small we had our most successful event ever raising well over \$9000.00 - a welcome boost to our depleted bank account. In an effort to augment our funding the Board decided to sell Rheo Thompson mint smoothies. These are available from our directors for \$3.00. Our next big fundraiser will be April 1, 2023 at 7:30 at Siloam United Church when the Voices of Broadway concert choir will once again provide an evening of outstanding Broadway music. Tickets will be available at the door or from directors! Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

GETHSEMANE FOOD BANK

The Gethsemane Food Bank operates out of the Gethsemane Gardens Housing Unit and is open to clientele Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am to noon. In 2022 they served 402 families (up 75 from 2021) and this translates to 738 adults (up 162) and 274 children plus 2 babies (up 37 plus 2 babies). The numbers were higher from August on and there were more new clients.

Clients are given:

Cereal, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, pork and beans, beef stew, mac and cheese, canned soup, canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, tea bags, powdered milk, rice, sugar, margarine, bread, crackers, bar of soap, laundry soap, toilet paper. When there are children peanut butter, juice boxes, puddings, granola bars and cookies are included depending on availability. Over the summer and fall the Siloam and Rowntree Community gardens provided fresh produce. Harvest Bucks were also distributed.

The Friday volunteers knit and make available hats, mitts, scarves and dish clothes. Extra items such as cake mixes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant are placed in a box and people can choose two items.

With increasing food costs, it is becoming more difficult to stock the shelves. We are grateful to the Sisters of St Joseph for their generous funding and all those who donate to keep our doors open. Thanks also to our dedicated volunteers. Our clients thank you!

WELCOME WEDNESDAY

Due to COVID the Welcome Wednesday volunteers spent most of their time preparing take-out meals for the 30-35 who showed up at Rowntree United each week. In early November the program was moved inside to the delight of the attendees. There is additional work required to serve the meal indoors but the return of long-time community volunteers –Tim who washes dishes and Al who looks after the distribution of the Food Coalition items helps to ease the burden. Other program participants are always willing to help the WW volunteers set up and take down tables and chairs. We serve 40-45 meals each week. There continues to be a few takeout meals as well. A Christmas dinner of roast beef and all the fixings was greatly appreciated by those who attended.

BUILDING COMMUNITY...FOSTERING HOPE

The task of building community and fostering hope within the Marconi community is a daunting task for the ELUCO Board. Our accomplishments are only possible because of you- our too numerous to mention volunteers, our donors big and small, our member churches, UCWs, our Marconi community who give back with love and support, and of course the glue that holds it all together, Nancy.

A special thank you to London and Middlesex Community Housing for housing our office and programs, the Maycourt Club of London, Sisters of St Joseph, United Church of Canada Mission and Services, Hope Council of Antler River Watershed Region and Westminster College Foundation. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors!

I would like to close with a Prayer of Kindness, recently adopted by the Welcome Wednesday program.

O Lord, give us strength today to show kindness in all that we do. Help us to open our arms to those less fortunate and extend our hands to those who may need it, so that they may see YOU in our words and actions. Amen.

Respectfully submitted by ELUCO Board of Directors

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

The members of this Committee include John Bell, John Little, Dick Huffman and Jim Anderson. John Davidson organized a successful Clothing Drive in the Spring and John Bell convened the very successful Chicken BBQ this Fall. The Committee met this year to consider the budget performance and also plan a Fall Giving Campaign. Although the results of this campaign are not yet tabulated, we are encouraged by the increase in givings and also gifts from donors who participate in our virtual worship services either on Rogers Television or our website. Planning ahead for next year, the Committee will be leading another major givings campaign and explore revenue sources for the Church. Grant acquisition will continue.

Two successful Drive thru Fellowship Fundraising Meals were held in the Winter of 2022 – a Valentine's Chili dinner in February (organized by Richard and Sheila Macgregor, Wendy Sibley, Jonathan Sibley, Heather Vosper (with help from Judi Emery, Peggy Rivard, Rosemary Todd

and Lorna Carnegie) and a St. Paddy's Day Irish Stew, organized by Bruce and Betty Challis who donated vegetables and Dave and Karen Donaldson who donated all the meat (with help from Wendy Sibley, Jonathan Sibley, Heather Vosper, Peggy Rivard, Nancy Bernardo and Richard and Sheila Macgregor.)

Respectively submitted by Catherine Glover, Interim Chair

2022 Identifiable Givers

Range From	Range To	# by Range
\$ 1	\$ 50	44
\$ 51	\$ 100	35
\$ 101	\$ 200	28
\$ 251	\$ 500	65
\$ 751	\$ 1,000	47
\$ 1,001	\$ 5,000	118
More than \$5000		5
	Total	342

						% 2022		% 2023 Plan
						Actual to		to 2022
			2022 Actuals	2022 Budget	to Budget %	2023 Budget		Actual
INCOME								
31000 - GIVINGS INCOME								
	From Envelopes, PAR, Loose, Sunday School		\$301,182	\$314,500	95.8%	\$317,500		105.4%
33000 - OPERATING INCOME								
	Total 33001 - INCOME - Contribution Income		\$57,374	\$27,500	208.6%	\$52,500		
	Total 33002 - INCOME - Sundry		\$10,413	\$9,750	106.8%	\$30,750		
	Total 33003 - INCOME - Fundraising		\$55,893	\$52,000	107.5%	\$96,500		
	Total 33004 - INCOME - Grants		\$79,172	\$54,606	145.0%	\$97,394		
	Total 33400 - INCOME - Communications		\$3,321	\$2,000	N/A	\$4,000		
	Total 33000 - OPERATING INCOME		\$206,173	\$145,856	141.4%	\$281,144		136.4%
33099 - MISSION AND OUTREACH INCOME								
	- Envelopes		\$75	\$400	N/A	\$400		
	Total 33099 - MISSION AND OUTREACH INCOME		\$75	\$400	N/A	\$400		
TOTAL GIVINGS & OPERATING INCOME								
			\$507,430	\$460,756	110.1%	\$599,044		118.1%
EXPENSES								
40000 - EXPENSES - PERSONNEL								
	Total 40001 - EXP - Staff Personnel		\$274,045	\$206,087	133.0%	\$289,248		
	Total 40002 - EXP - Contract Personnel		\$47,887	\$52,541	91.1%	\$88,883		
	Total 40000 - EXPENSES - PERSONNEL		\$321,932	\$258,628	124.5%	\$378,131		117.5%
40309 - EXPENSES - PROJECT COSTS								
			\$10,475	\$5,700	183.8%	\$45,000		429.6%
41499 - EXPENSES - OUTREACH								
			\$48,934	\$50,384	97.1%	\$41,000		83.8%
42049 - EXPENSES - SPIRITUAL LIFE								
			\$19,970	\$22,650	88.2%	\$13,750		68.9%
42599 - EXPENSES - CONGREGATIONAL LIFE								
			\$493	\$500	98.6%	\$500		101.4%
44000 - EXPENSES - OPERATING								
	Total 44001 - EXP - Fees & Service Chg		\$26,471	\$23,295	113.6%	\$23,295		
	Total 44002 - EXP - Sundry, Cong Life, Fundraising		\$24,129	\$9,050	266.6%	\$2,750		
	Total 44003 - EXP - Office, Utilities, Insurance		\$34,490	\$32,560	105.9%	\$35,282		
	Total 44004 - EXP - Build, Equip, Grounds		\$19,677	\$35,284	55.8%	\$40,300		
	Total 44006 - EXP - Communications		\$9,143	\$12,993	70.4%	\$12,675		
	Total 44007 - EXP - AV Production Facility		\$25,714	\$32,122	80.1%	\$25,800		
	Total 44000 - EXPENSES - OPERATING		\$139,624	\$145,304	96.1%	\$140,102		100.3%
TOTAL EXPENSES - FROM ALL SOURCES								
			\$530,953	\$477,466	111.2%	\$618,483		116.5%
TOTAL INCOME - GIVINGS and OPERATIONS								
			\$507,430	\$460,756	110.1%	\$599,044		118.1%
NET INCOME/DEFICIT								
			-\$23,523	-\$16,710		-\$19,439		

2023 Budget Comment

As a result of the onset of COVID, Siloam received a Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan from the Revenue Canada Agency (RCA) in 2020 to help offset the strain on operations caused by the virus. In fact, there were two such loans totaling \$60,000 – \$40,000 initially plus a subsequent \$20,000. If the loans are repaid before the end of 2023, RCA will forgive one third of the total or \$20,000 and the required payment will then be \$40,000.

The loan proceeds were deposited in our operating bank account at Libro and have been used to help pay expenses since that time. However, we did not bring the \$60,000 into Income in our operating financial statements for 2020 and 2021. As we will be retiring the loan with the above payment of \$40,000 before the end of this year we are therefore recognizing the \$20,000 net gain from the loan repayment in the Sundry Income line of the 2023 budget.

The operating bank account balance at December 31, 2022 was \$32,959 but the projected deficit for the year is \$19,439. Therefore, ignoring the minor impact of interest on said account, the provisional balance for loan repayment would be $\$32,959 - \$19,439 = \$13,520$.

The foregoing would mean that the loan payment shortfall is $\$40,000 - \$13,520 = \$26,480$ and this amount will have to be charged to the line of credit at Libro or perhaps obtained from funds managed by the trustees.

In conjunction with the above, it is noted that the unamortized value of Siloam assets (land, building, furnishings & equipment) is unencumbered aside from the \$40,000 loan repayment liability. In addition, such asset values do not include the very significant amount of funds managed by the trustees for future improvements to and replacements of existing property.

Submitted by Dick Huffman, Treasurer

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Siloam United Church
Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 11:45 a.m.**

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her appreciation to: the members of Church Council; Dick Huffman for his many hours spent on financial concerns of the church; Pauline Newton for her work associated with acquiring new staff members; Peggy Dunham for leading the committee to find a new music director; Allyn Todd and his Communications Team for being able to adapt and respond with all the technical expertise needed to allow Siloam to reach so many virtually; John Davidson and Lynn McClary for leadership roles in Outreach and Affirming Ministry respectively; Randy Donkervoort and everyone who has helped with the Urban Garden project; Catherine Glover for heading Church Council with patience and foresight as she built bridges this year with other churches to form a stronger youth ministry program and wrote countless grant applications; and to the Siloam congregation for unwavering support and commitment to our vision "To Be Christ to Each Other and God's World".

Prayers of Remembrance were said for those members of the congregation who passed away in 2021.

Motion: To appoint Catherine Glover as Chair of the meeting.

Moved by Steve Britton, Seconded by Dave Dunham. Carried

Motion: To appoint Peggy Rivard as secretary for the meeting.

Moved by Enid Wilson, Seconded by Margaret Smith. Carried

Motion: To extend voting privileges for the meeting to all adherents in attendance.

Moved by Allyn Todd, Seconded by Tracey Brown. Carried

Motion: To accept the minutes of the June 27, 2021 annual meeting.

Moved by Dave Dunham, Seconded by Steve Britton. Carried

Motion: To accept Statistical, Staff, Committee and Affiliated Group Reports for information (except the 2021 Revenue & Expenses Report and 2022 Budget Plan).

Moved by Bruce Challis, Seconded by Anne Donkervoort. Carried

Motion: To approve Mission & Service contribution for 2022.

Moved by Maria Prohaszka, Seconded by Ellen Edmondson. Carried

Minutes of Siloam AGM, March 27/2022

Page Two

Treasurer's Report:

Catherine Glover delivered the report for Dick Huffman. Catherine pointed out that Siloam's 2021 year-end financial position was positive due to **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies** issued in 2021 by the federal government, a very successful givings campaign, our fundraisers, grant opportunities and our ability to access Trustee funds because of the pandemic. Catherine then outlined Siloam's budget plan for 2022 and spoke of the budget performance to date.

Motion: To accept the budget performance year to date.

Moved by Margaret Smith, Seconded by Steve Britton. Carried

Motion: To approve the 2022 financial plan.

Moved by Maria Prohaszka, Seconded by Tracey Brown. Carried

Motion: To use Famme & Co. For the 2021 audit.
Moved by Lorna Carnegie, Seconded by Dave Dunham. Carried

Trustees Report: Allyn
Todd, Chair of Trustees, read the names of the current Trustees and expressed his thanks to Pete McClary and Dave Donaldson who retired this year after completing their three-year term of office.

Motion: To approve the Trustees Report as printed, including the list of Trustees.
Moved by Lynda Niles; Seconded by Maria Prohaszka. Carried

New Business:
Chair Glover expressed sincere thanks, on behalf of everyone at Siloam, to Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor for her willingness and the hard work she has done to lead us through all of our many challenges and changes this past year. She has devoted extra time in pastoral care during the pandemic and has championed Christian education by organizing the Rabbi Address event and supporting the work involved in Siloam becoming an Affirming Congregation.

In addition, Catherine gave gratitude for the work of Rev. Ann Corbet, Chad Brown, Allison O'Connor, Wendy Sibley, Blythe George and the many volunteers who do work around the church in many different areas.

As Catherine pointed out, Siloam owes many thanks to Erin Salter, Jen Prince and Dave Buckley who contributed so much during 2021 before they moved on to other workplaces.

Minutes of Siloam AGM, March 27/2022

Page Three

Looking Forward:
In May, we look forward to welcoming Marilyn Arthur as she begins her position of Minister of Youth and Young Adults and shares her time between Siloam, First-St. Andrews and Metropolitan United Churches.

In 2022 as we prepare to celebrate Siloam's 165th anniversary year with special events, we anticipate an even bigger garden project yielding more food than last year, a designation that we are an Affirming Congregation and more youth ministry programs.

It will be Catherine Glover's last year as Chair of Church Council as she has already served one extra year past her designated term of office.

Nominations Committee Report:
Council Chair Elect – vacant; Visioning Chair – vacant; Secretary – Peggy Rivard
Motion: To approve the Nominations Committee recommendations.
Moved by Tracey Brown, Seconded by Dave Dunham Carried

Final Words and Closing Prayer:

Rev. Sheila provided closing remarks and a prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

Catherine