

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH

2024 Annual Report

Our 167th Report

***Annual Meeting –
Sunday, February 23, 2025***

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Siloam United Church Statistics

Ministers: Rev. Ann Corbet, Interim Minister
 Pastor Mary Dillon, Voluntary Associate Minister
 Marilyn Arthur, Shared Ministry of Youth & Young Adults (until October 2024)
 Allison O'Connor, Young at Heart Ministry
 Rev. Wib Dawson, Minister Emeritus
Music Director: Blythe George
Office Administrator: Erin Salter
Custodian: Dave & Claire Graham (retired Sept 2024); Jeff Capone (Oct-Dec 2024)

Membership	2021	2022	2023	2024
Church Membership *See p. 5 for details	668	674	667	660
Total Households	395	396	386	382
Worship				
Child (under age 12) Baptism	3	1	1	--
Adult/Youth Baptism	1	--	--	2
Confirmation	3	--	--	--
Marriages	1	--	2	--
Funerals	15	20	17	13
Services of Holy Communion	1	3	4	2
Stewardship				
Identifiable Givers:				
General Fund	321	342	335	280
Mission and Service	321	342	335	280
Group Enrollments				
Church School & Nursery (including teachers) *known as Young At Heart as of 2022	5/week	10- 15/week	12-20/week	15-25/week
Senior Choir	15-20	15-20	26	24
Siloam Sounds Bell Choir	4	4	9	8
Youth Coffee House (monthly)	8-10	15-20	20-25	--
Young Adult Hops & Hope (monthly)	--	4-8	4-7	--
Vacation Bible School	--	--	18	--
Community of Faith Musical	--	25	Spring 21; Fall 26	Spring 25; Fall 28
Friday Morning Book Study	15-20	10-20	5-10	5
Rose Birrell Group	25-30	26	25	28
Siloam Movie Group	--	12-15	18-25	10-15

Membership (in detail)

Members (December 31, 2023)	667
Transfers In	9
Received by Profession of Faith	2
Transfers Out	3
Removed by Death	15
Total removed	18
Total Membership December 31, 2024	660

Baptisms

Name	Names of Parents	Date
Chassidy Alexandra Jillian Hall	Ronald & Leslie Hall	April 28, 2024
Jacob Fehr		May 23, 2024

In Memoriam

From 2024 we remember with love these persons and their families.

Marilyn Brewster

Laverne Bilyea

Irene Cadeau

Shirley Carson

Bonnie Ethier

Gwen Forbes

Betty Francis

Barbara Gilbert

Robin Hood

Edward Kuntz

Helen Law

Archie Leach

Kathy Johnson

Jim O'Neill

Dorothy Preston

Glenn Sinclair

Don Ryckman

Elizabeth Ryckman

Doris Shoebottom

Clyde Spencer

Barry Springett

Wyn Tew



2024 Siloam Church Council

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

Chair	Rotated Among Council Members
Vacant	Chair Elect of Council
Peggy Rivard	Secretary
Lynn McClary	Treasurer
Allyn Todd	Chair of Trustees
Jim Anderson & John Little	Co-Chairs of Congregational Resources
Tracey Brown	Chair of Communications
Dave Dunham	Chair of Property
Margaret Smith	Chair of Spiritual Life & Worship
John Davidson & Wendy Barbour	Co-Chairs of Outreach and Social Justice
Pauline Newton	Chair of Ministry & Personnel
Anita Elworthy & Harla O'Neil	Co-Chairs of Congregational Life
Steve Britton & Mary Dillon	Regional Council Representatives
Barbara Walters	Rose Birrell Group
Lynn McClary	Chair of HEAT (Healing, Education and Affirming Team)

Interim Minister

The year 2024 was a year of transition for Siloam, as we sought to fill the position for a new minister. But the time of "in between" was anything but static. It was a very active year for all volunteers and members with special events and successful fundraisers. We welcomed 13 new members to the church in April thanks, in part, to the Young at Heart which continued to grow! We bid a heartfelt good-bye to our Youth and Young Adult Minister Marilyn Arthur, and we extended a grateful welcome to our Voluntary Associate Minister Mary Dillon. In cooperation with the Holy Spirit, we generated a lot of positive energy this year! This bodes well for the days that are to come.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Voluntary Associate Minister

"I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers ..."
(Ephesians 1:16)

A Covenanting Service was held on October 6, 2024 to officially recognize me as your Voluntary Associate Minister. Since then, I have been invited to lead Sunday worship on occasion, including co-presiding with Rev. Ann at the Sacrament of Holy Communion, facilitating book and video studies, sitting on Church Council, and participating in the various activities held at Siloam. I have visited with the folks at Richmond Woods in preparation for continuing the monthly worship services there when Rev. Ann retires, and have enjoyed participating in the Rose Birrell Women's Group, the Siloam Choir, and Prayers for Peace. The vitality of this community is precious and shouldn't be taken for granted! Through my participation in the life and work of this Community of Faith, I have enjoyed getting to know more of the folks in our church family and feel blessed to serve here in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Dillon

Christian Resource Centre

The Christian Resource Centre moved to Siloam United Church at the end of October 2024 after spending five years in space provided at the Centre for Practical Theology in the former Fairmont United Church building on Tweedsmuir Avenue in London. An Advent/Christmas Open House was held on Saturday, November 2nd, to coincide with the Santa Shoppe Bazaar.

Since moving to Siloam, I have processed several orders for Advent candles, United Church calendars, books for use by study groups, baptism candles and bibles, Communion supplies, and Christmas giftware. We also participated in the "Book for Every Child" program through the London Public Library system.

Going forward, marketing of this valuable outreach ministry is of top priority.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Dillon, Volunteer Manager

Message from the Young At Heart

Young At Heart

Siloam's Young At Heart Group meets Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We spend time socializing before beginning our lesson of the week. 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. We do not formally meet in the summer but we do set up events because it is important for us to continue to foster our friendships.



I am so proud of YAH and the two Siloam Sunday services we led in 2024. We grew awareness for the Make Children Better Now and Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada Foundations. We also had a hot dog and bake sale to raise funds for these important organizations.

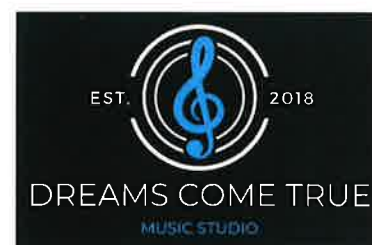
Thank you, Young At Heart!





Dreams Come True Music Studio

Dreams Come True Music Studio is very grateful for Siloam's outreach support. We are celebrating 7 years of making a difference with Music. We are an inclusive music studio for people of all ages and all abilities. Our performances out in our community and beyond are reaching many who now share our passion for inclusion. We collaborated with Siloam's Young At Heart, The Community Of Faith Musical Theatre Group and Siloam's Choir to raise awareness for Make Children Better Now and Kids Mental Health Optimist Club Of Canada Foundations. Together we live true inclusion! #inclusion #abilitiesfirst #singyoursong





Community Of Faith Musical Theatre

This past year, a group of people from various churches from London and surrounding areas teamed up again to form two Community Of Faith Musical Theatre presentations. We are grateful to everyone who contributed with free will offerings at our performances. Because of you, we were able to purchase the musical. All of us participating volunteer our time and talents and we had a fantastic turnout for our showcase concerts. The musicals Let's Rock and Dude! You Hear What I Hear? were 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

Report from Antler River Watershed Region

2024 Regional Representative Antler River Watershed Region Report

After 2023 AGM, Mary Dillon volunteered to become our second regional representative and was voted in by Siloam Council. We both attended in May 2024 the Tri-Regional Council Meeting in Port Elgin at Unifor Family Education Centre. The Tri-Region shared the same office near Hamilton and staff. The Tri-Region covers Southwest Ontario, Greater Hamilton, and Niagara Area. We also attended the Regional Fall Council meeting by Zoom.

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne - UCC moderator

UCC Moderator was the Theme speaker at Spring Council. Her key message is that congregations cannot expect things to go back to what we expected before Covid. In hiring a new minister, we need to look beyond our normal expectations and be more open-minded and look at new leadership skills. The number of candidates has dropped significantly. We need to also look at how we conduct services and programs. Siloam has changed and I can see we are moving to meet our Moderator's message.

Siloam Retirees and Commissioning

Rev Sheila Macgregor and Mary Dillon were both recognized as Antler River Watershed Region retirees at Tri-regional Spring meeting. Our shared youth minister, recognized as designated lay minister, was commissioned to enter the order of ministry.

Richard Auckland

In the spring region meeting, Richard Auckland was elected as the New President Elect.

Remit 1

This last spring, it was announced that it has passed nationally. Remit 1 as put by 44th General Council establishes an Autonomous Indigenous National Organization within The United Church of Canada. This attempted to address the wrongs done to Indigenous and this new organization is not bound by existing church rules. It requires both 75 % of regions and 75% of congregation councils/boards to approve as this modifies our State of Union (1925).

Church Closings and Creation of New Funds.

When churches close, the Region is directing that 25% of sales of assets go to the Region for the purpose of making funds available to our congregations. At the Fall Region Council meeting, three proposals were approved:

- Bridge Loan Fund – maximum of \$30,000 over 3 years no more than \$10, 000 per year.
- Moving Expenses Fund – 50% to a maximum of \$10,000.
- Collaborative Funds – when two or more congregations are working on noncapital projects to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

The first two funds are restricted by the amount of unrestricted funds that the trustees hold on behalf of the congregation

45th General Council

The 45th General Council will be held this August in Calgary. My wife, Linda Britton, has been selected as a commissioner to represent the Antler Watershed Region. Some of the other familiar names to Siloam include Kerry Stover and David Whiting.

Respectfully submitted by Steven Britton, Regional Council Rep.

LIFE AND WORK OF SILOAM UNITED CHURCH

Property Committee

The past year has been a very active one for the Property Committee.

We have seen the completion of several large projects. The sidewalk in front of the church was laid and landscaped with the generous donation and work of the Foster family, and support of our local MP Peter Fragiskatos. The bench in memory of Dorothy Foster was dedicated at a Sunday Service.

The second major project was completion of the Faithful Footprint grant obligations to reduce the church's greenhouse gas footprint and reduce energy costs. This grant funded the replacement of windows in the Nursery and the Kitchen. The upright refrigerator was replaced with an efficient model with insulated doors. The exit doors in the kitchen and storeroom were replaced with renewed weather strips. The largest portion of work was completed by Property Committee members, replacing all the fluorescent light tubes with energy efficient LED bulbs. This required members to get trained and certified in the use of a cherry picker. Members rewired all fixtures and replaced 324 tubes. This should result in substantial electrical savings.

We have provided rental support, setup and takedown for events throughout the year. I would like to thank all members for their faithful service to the committee and Siloam.

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.

Rev. Ann Corbet has been a blessing to the Siloam congregation as our Interim Supply Minister since July 2023 when Rev. Sheila retired. However, Ann has decided to take her own retirement effective the end of March 2025. While this is a huge loss for Siloam, we wish Ann a happy and well-deserved retirement. Mary Dillon, our Volunteer Associate Minister will take over as Interim Supply Minister effective April 1, 2025 until such time as the vacancy for a full-time minister is filled. A Search Committee was appointed and charged with the task of selecting the best candidate from the applications received for congregational approval.

In September our long-time Custodian, Claire Graham, also announced her retirement. Claire and her husband Dave carried out custodial duties at Siloam for 16 years. We wish both Claire and Dave much happiness in this next phase of their lives. In October we welcomed Jeff Capone as our new custodian.

In October we said a fond farewell to Marilyn Arthur, our Shared Minister of Youth and Young Adults. We wish Marilyn all the best in her new role as Minister at Tavistock United Church.

Rosemary Todd will be stepping off of the M&P Committee effective the end of 2024 to free up more time for her duties as Envelope Secretary. We want to thank Rosemary for her years of service as a member of the M&P Committee. We are actively seeking a replacement for Rosemary on the M&P Committee and would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in this type of church involvement.

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
Jane Ridley
Elaine Woodley

Spiritual Life and Worship

The Spiritual Life and Worship team and their volunteers continue to offer support to clergy and staff by obtaining scripture readers, preparation of communion, new member events, baptisms and special events.

A special note of appreciation is extended to Lorraine Huffman and Liz Griffin for their years of service in decorating the sanctuary. Many thanks to those who continue to help: John & Jane Davidson, Erin Salter, Lorna Carnegie, Beckie Robb, Bruce & Betty Challis and Enid Wilson. We extend a special welcome to Heather Vosper and Janet Meyerink who are now looking after the decorating of the sanctuary.

A special thanks to Linda Peeling and Heather Vosper for their committee support roles.

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

Communications Committee

Strengthening Community Connections Through Communications

As a community of faith, Siloam's communications platforms are vital tools for reaching into the community, fostering deeper engagement, and enhancing our visibility and value as a centre for service and spiritual growth.

Service support/recording: Reaching out to the Larger Community

The Communications Team, including Allyn Todd (Financial Coordinator) and part-time employee Christine Taleski (AV Team Lead and Director/Editor), was able to live-stream 48 services live on our YouTube channel, ensuring that those unable to attend in person can still participate and feel connected. The YouTube broadcasts are averaging 50-70 views per video. They also produced 46 edited service videos for the website and for broadcast weekly on Rogers TV extending Siloam's reach into homes and hearts across the region. Occasionally the Team has engaged in video shoots for organizations external to Siloam, such as ELUCO, Urban Roots London, etc. for which Siloam is paid.

Christine recruits and manages volunteers from Fanshawe College and the Cross-Cultural Centre, engaging people from diverse backgrounds in meaningful service to support our mission. These volunteers to help with the cameras and running Easy Worship (for projection) during church services, coordinates the scheduling of paid and volunteer support personnel, and ensures invoices are issued for AV services rendered for special events at Siloam requiring AV support (concerts, funerals, recitals, etc.). Only AV Team members are permitted to operate Siloam owned AV equipment. Deepak Lama and Rock Neto are our two professional and dedicated regular sound board operators, and Heidi Peters and Ian Vu step in to perform the Director's responsibilities on a Sunday morning when Christine is not available. The camera operators are volunteers under the mentorship of Christine and Wib Dawson.

Website: A Window Into Siloam

Christine Taleski, Erin Salter (Office Administrator), and Tracey Brown (Web Master) maintain the Siloam website, which offers a window into the organization's history, values, staff information, and outreach. It also includes our current calendar, service recordings, and donation page. Offering online donations or purchases for fundraising activities helps improve participation, as people don't have to come into the office. Mark Davidson provides historical content information when required.

Social Media: Inspiring and Engaging

Wib Dawson (Videography), Christine Taleski, and Allison O'Connor (Young-At-Heart Leader) help maintain our social media sites, where we advertise church services and events and post beautiful musings and memes including short extracts from worship services. Wib also creates videos for use in worship services, some of which are posted on social media. We have 904 Facebook followers and 282 Instagram followers to date. Terry Fieldhouse (Photography) contributes beautiful photographs of events and happenings in and around Siloam.

IT Support

Siloam contracts Compudata (a London based IT support company) through an annual Service Level Agreement to maintain security and an internet firewall on our IT system at Siloam. The firewall is a physical in-line device that is monitored 24/7 by Compudata for security breach attempts by hackers ensuring data security. Compudata are available when required to address system problems that might be encountered. They also provide recommendations on system updates as necessary.

Telecommunications

With significant assistance by Mike Ashton, Siloam successfully switched over from AllStream to Rogers this year as a telephone system service provider, saving Siloam about \$350 per month.

By leveraging digital platforms, the Communications Team plays a critical role in strengthening Siloam's presence in the community. These efforts not only sustain connections with our faith family but also introduce Siloam to new audiences, helping us to grow in relevance and recognition as a valued community servant leader.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey Brown, Chair, Communications

HEAT Committee (Healing and Wellness, Education, and Affirming Team)

Committee: Ann Corbet, David Dillon, Mary Dillon, Anne Donkervoort, Janice Faith, Janet Liefso, Lynn McClary, Heather Vosper

Highlights of 2024

- Book Studies with David Dillon - "Christianity for the Rest of Us", "Do I Stay Christian?" (shared leadership at Wesley Knox), and "Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry"
- Candlemass Celebration with a labyrinth, candles, and sharing time on February 4
- Movie Night in February with the film "Rustin"
- PIE Day video during worship and tarts after worship on March 10
- Added to our Little Library and promoted for people to access it
- Yoga Class on Wednesday evenings in the Library Chapel
- WalkFit Exercise Class and Ageless Grace programs
- Bulletin Board display of Deep Spirituality, Inspiring Worship, Daring Justice (UCC Vision and Purpose)
- Pride Sunday on June 2, 2024, with Christa Duvall from Pflag London Chapter
- Participated in Pride Parade along with 14 other London churches
- Created more Land Acknowledgement videos with Wib Dawson's expertise and creativity
- Movie Night in September with the film, "The Grizzlies"
- Truth and Reconciliation Service on September 29 with a video, "Every Child Matters" flag, orange shirt stickers, and lots of orange shirts
- Books on Truth and Reconciliation added to the Little Library
- Became a Period Positive Community, thanks to Christine Taleski
- Grief Support Group with Grace Tallman
- MAID workshop on November 9
- Video Series, "The Chosen" led by Mary Dillon
- Trans 101 Workshop on November 19 with Christa Duvall (President of Pflag Canada) and Friends
- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women article by Stu Cunningham and bulletin board display in December

Respectfully submitted by Lynn McClary, Chair, HEAT Committee

Prayers for Peace

In response to the catastrophic war being waged by Israel and Hamas, and the devastating assault waged on Ukraine by Russia, a small group at Siloam felt called and compelled to pray with intention for peace. Opening the invitation to all who were interested, we met on a regular basis, twice a month, and prayed in silence.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Pastoral Care Card Team

Our creative members – Lorna Carnegie, Rev Carol Reardon-Smith, Brenda Fieldhouse, Judi Emery and Karen Moffat – produced beautiful hand-crafted cards at Easter and Christmas. These cards were mailed or delivered to over 60 Siloam members who are house-bound or living with chronic illness. We also made an effort to keep track of special birthdays, and birthdays of those who are over 90 years old. We mailed many cards! Some of our team members kept in touch with Siloam members by phone.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Prayer Circle

This year the members of the prayer circle continued to uphold many individuals in prayer. The people for whom we prayed were not only members of Siloam, but also members of the larger community. Privacy was always ensured. I give thanks for our pray-ers: Heather Vosper, Jane Hilton, Lorraine Reid, Rev Camillia Larouche, Connie Jervis, Peggy Rivard, Janelle Towle and Elizabeth Campbell.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ann Corbet

Ministry of Music

The 2024 season for music at Siloam was rewarding and spiritually fulfilling. It was marked by growth, connection, and an ever-increasing fellowship amongst a dynamic community of musicians. There is much to be thankful for, excited about, and proud of as we look back on our music ministry in 2024.

In the winter and spring, the choir explored a variety of new music and favourite selections from our choral library. For Black History Month in February, brought some beautiful spirituals and gospel tunes to worship, immersing ourselves in a rich, historical culture of sacred music. In April, we invited UWO student Evelyn Barber to Siloam for the first time to sing a solo. Evelyn has since joined us, participating in weekly rehearsals and services as she continues her second year studying vocal music at the university. In June, choir rehearsals continued right until the end of the month, with selections already being prepared for the fall startup.

At Sunday services in the summer, we welcomed several of our choir members to sing solos for our Ministry of Music. Thank you, singers! Helen Bruzas took over at the bench while I was off on vacation for two Sundays in August. Thank you, Helen!

The fall found us taking on new choir members, whom we welcome enthusiastically. For Remembrance Day, we invited back local trumpeter Amy Lee to accompany special music and provide the Last Post and Reveille. In December, we did not run a Christmas cantata, but are instead preparing a concert for the spring on the theme music from the 1950s and 1960s. We enjoyed weekly caroling ahead of worship led by various members of the choir. We had an excellent turnout for our Christmas eve service and then a well-deserved break over the holidays.

The Siloam handbell choir was very active throughout the year. We enjoy having newer, thriving members ringing with us, as well as some more experienced ringers. We prepared special music for Holy Week and Easter, and rang during Advent and Christmas Eve. This ensemble has enjoyed rehearsing weekly on Sunday afternoons after service. They are a dedicated and friendly group. If you are interested ringing with us, don't hesitate to reach out to Blythe George or Peggy Dunham.

If you might be interested in joining the Siloam Choir, do get in touch! Our group consists of singers with varying levels of experience and music-reading abilities. Thursday night continue to be the highlight of my week—we hope to see you there!

Here's to 2024, and an exceptional 2025 before us!

Submitted by Blythe George, Director of Music

Congregational Life

Our monthly coffee and cookies have been very well received and I'm sure a hot cup of coffee is particularly welcome during the winter months. I know many would like to see this event more frequently but we simply do not have the volunteers to do that. I would like to thank all those who have volunteered for this mission of hospitality—we couldn't do it without you!

I would also like to thank the Members of the Congregational Life Committee. Despite personal setbacks they remain committed. Thank you Peggy, Marilyn, Liz, Lynda, Judy (F) and co-chair Harla.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Elworthy, Co-Chair, Congregational Life Committee

The Rose Birrell Women's Group

Our regular meetings were filled with fun, fellowship and worship. We have 28 members.

We were fortunate to hold another very successful bazaar in November, as well as a ham and scalloped potato supper in April.

We had speakers Nikki Marsh from Anova, Nancy Ball from Victoria Quilts, Rev. Anne Beattie-Stokes on her trip to Camino de Santiago, and Dawn McClintock whose topic was "Grandma's Wartime Kitchen".

We enjoyed a catered luncheon in both June and December. At our December meeting we were entertained by Neila Lawson.

We made a donation to the Siloam General Fund of \$10,000. We also donated to London Cares, Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, Wellspring, ELUCO, and the Ark Aid Mission.

We purchased stamps for the pastoral care committee to send greeting cards to the shut-ins. We sponsored two ELUCO families. Enid has mailed out 40 sympathy and get-well cards to members of our congregation.

We catered to the annual regional U.C.W. Summer Event, a wellness group activity, several birthday and funeral receptions, and three soup and sandwich lunches. We also benefit from the income from the quilting group when they quilt for individuals both within our congregation and from the community.

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 every month at 1pm, except for January, July and August. All women are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Smith, Carol Dawson 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. 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.

It is a major responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the church property is always adequately insured. The 2025 insurance policy for Siloam was renewed Dec 1, 2024 with McFarlan-Rowlands insurance broker. In 2024 the Trustees investigated the option of having insurance provided by UCC Protect which was recommended by the United Church of Canada to reduce the cost of insurance for United Churches. Unfortunately, the quote from UCC Protect for identical insurance to what we currently have in place, came in at an exorbitant cost of double what we currently pay from McFarlan-Rowlands. Consequently, it was decided to continue insuring through McFarlan-Rowlands. The Antler River Watershed Regional Council were notified of this extremely poor policy of the UCC promoting UCC Protect. The United Church of Canada provides Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and Cyber Liability Protection free of charge to all United Churches.

The full Board of Trustees for 2025 will consist of the persons named in the table below, listed in order of Final Year of Board membership. The Trustee executive for 2025 is comprised of Chair and Treasurer (Dave Peeling), and Secretary (Heather Vosper). Allyn Todd will remain on the Board or Trustees for one more year to assist with turnover of Chair and Treasurer responsibilities to Dave Peeling. With gratitude we say good-bye to Maureen McGauley, Ken Harding, and Bruce Challis who are retiring from the Board of Trustees as their terms have been completed. We welcome Dave McClary and Terry Fieldhouse this year who have agreed to serve as Board members for a 3-year term.

The following table is presented for acceptance by the Siloam congregation as the Board of Trustees Membership for 2025:

Name	Start Year	End Year
Heather Vosper (Secretary)	2020	2026
Al Newton	2023	2026
David Peeling (Chair & Treasurer)	2023	2026
Allyn Todd	2024	2026
Bob Foster	2024	2027
Terry Fieldhouse	2025	2028
Dave McClary	2025	2028
Minister		Ex Officio

Note: All memberships in the Board of Trustees start and end at the Annual Congregational Meeting in 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

The members of the Board of Trustees form a team of people committed to helping Siloam fulfill its vision through appropriate management of financial donations and investments. Siloam's Financial Management Plan guides our processes for the receiving of contributions, management of investments, and granting of funds. A review of the Trustee managed funds for 2024 confirms that we are meeting our financial targets for monies invested. Siloam is extremely fortunate to have such capable people on their Board of Trustees.

Trustees Financial Report

The Trustees 2024 Annual Financial Report is given on the following pages.

Respectfully submitted by Allyn Todd, Chair, Siloam Board of Trustees

2024 Annual Financial Report - Siloam Trustees

Memorial & Celebration of Life Fund

Opening Libro Bank Account Balance Jan 1, 2024	\$39,968.67
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Opening Trustee Fund Balance Jan 1, 2024 (Excluding Investments and Liabilities)	\$39,968.67
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Investments & Liabilities as of Jan 1, 2024

Investment - Libro Short-Term deposit	\$214,000.00
Investment - Canoe Financial (market value)	\$485,788.29
Liabilities	\$40,000.00

2024 Receipts

Non-Designated Fund

Non-Designated Fund donations received	\$2,665.68
Term Deposit Redemption Amount (for 2023 deficit + windows)	\$33,314.99
Investment earnings and interest	\$16,957.75
HST Rebates	\$1,149.01
Loan Repayments to Trustees from General Account	\$7,333.37
Faithful Footprints Grant received	\$19,000.00

Designated Funds

Dorothy Foster Memorial Walkway & Music Fund	\$6,100.00
Rev. Dr. Sheila McGregor Adult Education Fund	\$7,303.10

Holding Accounts

Siloam General Account Fund	\$4,267.70
Tolpuddle Martyr Cemetery Restoration Project Fund	\$1,570.22
Faithful Footprints Fund (from Term Deposit Redemption)	\$20,000.00
Carbon Reduction Fund	\$18,277.00

Total 2024 Receipts	\$137,938.82
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2024 Disbursements**Non-Designated Fund**

Paid to General Account for 2023 Deficit	\$32,173.00
2025 Insurance renewal 1st installment	\$3,399.84
Carbon Reduction Donation-Matching Campaign	\$5,000.00
Phone System Equipment Upgrade	\$411.97
Office Expense (stamps, misc.)	\$174.89
AV Equipment (Network Switch)	\$229.69
Ministers Housing Allowance	\$13,000.00

Designated Funds

Choir Fund (Music/Piano Tuning/Cantata/etc.)	\$150.00
Beckstead/Newton/Johnson/McCurdy Fund (Musicians)	\$275.00
Dorothy Foster Memorial Fund (Choir speaker + audio tuning)	\$3,456.42
Rev. Dr. Sheila McGregor Adult Education Fund (HEAT event)	\$400.00

Holding Accounts

Tolpuddle Cemetery Restoration Project Account	\$6,050.58
Siloam General Account (Donations directed to General Acct)	\$4,267.70
Faithful Footprints Account (Energy Efficiency Improvements)	\$20,000.00
Carbon Reduction Account (Kitchen Windows)	\$4,576.50

Total 2024 Disbursements	\$93,565.59
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Closing Trustee Fund Balance Dec 31, 2024 (Excluding Investments and Liabilities)	\$84,341.90
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Investments & Liabilities as of Dec 31, 2024

Investment - Libro Short-Term deposit (30 Day)	\$54,266.63
Investment - Libro Long-Term deposit (1 year)	\$100,000.00
Investment - Canoe Financial (market value)	\$548,344.09
Liabilities (Balance of Loan to Siloam General Account for CEBA loan repayment)	\$32,666.63

Closing Libro Bank Account Balance Dec 31, 2024	\$84,341.90
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CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

Social Justice and Outreach Committee

The committee has continued to support local and international projects.

Projects and Initiatives:

This year's Lenten project was to raise money for London Cares. In excess of \$5400 was raised for London Cares, who are working to help solve and support homelessness in London. White Gift Sunday resulted in over \$5800 in contributions to Children's Aid, ANOVA, ELUCO and London Cares. 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 supported ELUCO (\$12000), LUSO (\$500), along with the Mission and Service Fund (\$20000). This year Siloam partnered with LUSO and the London Food Bank and Urban Roots London as a food bank distribution point for northeast London.

Thanks also to Sharon Ashton and her team who continue to provide Welcome Wednesday lunches at Rowntree United church. Siloam continues to provide volunteers and support for the Gethsemane Food Bank, which is run by ELUCO. Siloam members also provide volunteers to run an out of the cold supper at St John the Evangelist church twice a year.

The outreach committee worked and supported Young At Heart in their effort to bring attention to bullying. Generous donations from the congregation were given to the Make Children Better Now charity.

In November we ran an additional campaign for the M&S fund which raised \$3800. We also ran "A Can a Week" food drive campaign for ELUCO food bank. Both were very successful.

Canada Food Grains - Continuing our Support:

Foodgrains Impact Statement 2023

"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 \$11,300.42 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 the estate of Mary Jo Fraleigh and Arva Heights Ltd, and Arva Grain Corp. (the McClary family businesses) for the donation of seed, chemicals and custom work.

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 & Wendy Barbour, Co-Chairs, Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Siloam / Urban Roots London Garden Review

OVERVIEW

2024 was a good year for the Garden Project. We got off to a good start in April, the weather cooperated better this year and we did not have the water challenges that were experienced last year. The gas pump allowed the workers to water directly without having to fill watering cans continuously. We received our full request for farm labour and coordinator positions. This allowed us to augment Urban Roots labour shortage this year. Our partnership was further enhanced with the LCF Grant that is being managed by our Siloam Administration. This Grant is providing significant funding for Urban Roots London, who without their support, the Siloam Garden would not succeed.

SUCSESSES

1. Generated over 1,500 pounds of fresh Produce that was distributed to over 1000 people this year.
 - a. Our community partners for the pop-up markets are Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre, St Mark's Anglican Church, LUSO, London Intercommunity Heath Centre, VON, Northwest London Resource Centre, South London Neighborhood Resource Centre, SOAHAC, Webrdige Community services, Westmount Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army
 - b. Donation partners: ELUCO, Siloam families, The Lunchbox, London Food Bank, Food Not Bombs, Ark Aid Mission, Indwell Social Housing, Atlohsa, Run for Palestine (CPSA), House of Gaz, Genesi Housing Co-op, London Food Coalition, Yaya's Kitchen, Muslim Food Bank, and The Care Collective
2. The Garden hosted several Volunteer groups over the season. LUSO. Kings College
 - a. We also had a woman who came out to the Siloam site to volunteer who lost her teenage son and wanted to find some healing in working with the land
3. Urban Roots continued to supply the Siloam Food Cupboard with fresh Produce every Wednesday. This produce has been such an important element for our food hampers for people experiencing food insecurity. Our food hampers contain packaged food goods and personal hygiene products and the fresh produce is so important for a healthier diet. Thank you Ben and your team for your continued support.
 - a. We also provided a donation to the Siloam families the first Wednesday of each month
 - b. 720.65 lbs went to the Siloam Food Cupboard+Families this year compared to last year's 398.05 lbs.
4. Many of the crops did well especially the garlic, scallions, lettuce, and winter radishes. There were pests but with the aid of netting, this helped to protect the crops better.
5. The LCF Grand was vitally needed for the continued success of the Urban Roots London and Siloam Garden Project. A huge thank you to Anna and her Team for applying and securing this grant.
6. Catherine was successful in securing the Seeds of Hope Grant from the United Church and the CSJ Grant from the Canadian Government. The CSJ grant allowed us to share our labour with URL as their allotment for farm labour was cut back. Thank you, Catherine.

7. We ran our first jamming session with the youth and senior members of the church. This was good learning as we discovered the jamming sessions will need to be on a Saturday if we are to attract more young adults or teens
8. The Siloam Market was a great success as a pilot project and raised approximately \$675 over 8 weeks with two additional markets one in September and one in October.

PLANS FOR 2025

1. Purchase and install further processing tables to wash the fresh produce before sending to Norlon.
 - a. We will require a lean-to beside the shed \$2,000, a processing table \$1,500 and a gravel base \$500. Total Budget is \$4,000.
2. Continue to administer the LCF Grant.
 - a. Siloam will continue to get 5K for 2025 and 2026. Anna will reach out the LCF to see when we should get the 2025 payment. We will do the same as last year with the invoices for payment.
3. Continue to write and apply for Grants such as CSJ and other organizations.
 - a. We have an OTF grant in the works and hopefully some more grants will pop up for next year
4. Run Sunday fresh produce markets at Siloam after Sunday service. Also run 6 Market Days from Siloam throughout the summer.
5. Use the Siloam Garden site to bring in Volunteer groups to learn about gardening
 - a. We will connect with Libro again, as well as the King's University students. We hope to have more volunteers come to Siloam, an issue with some folks is the distance so I will outreach to school and youth groups closer in the Siloam area.
6. Complete the sitting area and continue to expand the orchard.
7. Arron, a new URL Board member who has knowledge of operating an orchard, will put a new orchard plan together and with the \$1,200 set aside for orchard consultation, purchase and plant more fruit trees.
8. Expand the garden to the North, from the edge of the garden to the wooden fence. This will give us significantly more arable land with full sun. The area on the south side of the garden, which is shaded, can be used more efficiently to plant lettuce and herbs. Pete McClary is willing to pull out the five small trees currently in the north area of the garden with his farm machinery. Randy to approach the congregation to assemble a work team to cut up the wood and remove the slash.
9. Ben to arrange to tarp the new area to eradicate the weed seeds and will update his garden site plan accordingly.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Donkervoort & the Siloam / Urban Roots London Garden Team

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ELUCO 2024 Annual Report

As we move into this New Year and the challenges we face it is important to recap the many blessings that God bestowed on us this past year. With the dawn of 2024 we celebrated our 40th year of work in East London. It is a bittersweet celebration however. Forty years ago a group of like-minded individuals led by Rev. Mary Weir felt compelled to address the issue of poverty in East London and 40 years later the need and challenges continue to escalate. Food security, housing, employment equity and social systems are lacking or failing. As a result, mental health issues, addictions and violence are mushrooming in our communities. We would like to work ourselves out of a job but that does not look imminent.

Nancy Howard, our community worker continues to support and advocate for our families and individuals in the Marconi community. Nancy tells us that she cannot plan what her day will look like when she leaves for work in the morning. Flexibility is key so she can meet whatever needs arise. Some of the most common requests would include assistance with filling out applications for Geared-to-income Housing or documentation for Social Assistance or Court Proceedings. Protocols for maintaining these services can be overwhelming for individuals and often she is asked to support and advocate for their rights at meetings. This is especially true with the education system where she attends team meetings to determine school accommodations. She will advocate for the students because parents find it extremely intimidating and don't know what they should be asking for. Families face many challenges and often come for counselling services or just a listening ear and/or validation. Many are faced with serious health issues and if asked she will accompany them to medical appointments to provide moral support, and an extra set of ears or in some cases advocate for the individual. She is also able to provide resources to help manage mental health and addictions.

Continuing education and annual agency training on Social Assistance, Housing and Employment keep Nancy current on these subjects. As well this past year she added workshops on ODSP Appeals, Attending Court without a Lawyer, Child Custody, applying for ID CPP Disability and Landlord Tenant Mediation. She completed certified training through Sick Kids Children's Mental Health Learning Institute on Supporting Neurodivergent Children and Youth as well as a United Church refresher training on Racial Justice.

As well as hosting daily Breakfast Snacks and weekly School Lunch Programs she provides seasonal crafts (Valentine's, Easter, Mother's Day etc.) and a Literacy program with books to give away. A family trip to the Farm was a very popular event this summer as well as camp attendance. Once again, the busy Christmas Share program was a resounding success. She also shared our story at the Anniversary Service of Rowntree United, the Ladies Parlour group at Strathroy United and the Forest City-London Kiwanis Club. We are so thankful for Nancy's love and devotion to the Marconi community.

The ELUCO Board once again held a Voices of Broadway Fundraiser at Siloam United Church. We are so grateful to Siloam for providing this beautiful venue. To celebrate our 40th Anniversary we provided a special cake which was ceremoniously cut by Helen Picard a founding member of the ELUCO Board. We sold Rheo Thompson Mint Smoothie Chocolates to raise funds and these delicious treats were well received. Some of our volunteers hosted a BINGO night with another organization to support the work of ELUCO. Our Annual Walk and Roll for Families was held at the end of September in Springbank Park and was our most successful to date.

In early June the Board set up a five-year planning committee to look into our dwindling finances and make recommendations on how to deal with it. After prayerful consideration at the Board level, it was decided to accept the proposal to cut Nancy's position to half time. This was not an easy decision to reach given the current level of need in the community. When Nancy started, she was half time and we are hopeful that we can return her position to full time.

Welcome Wednesday

This weekly lunch program runs from September to June and is based at Rowntree United Church. We are blessed to have a slate of dedicated ecumenical volunteers who prepare and serve lunches to our clientele. We are grateful for the fresh food and groceries which are given to us by the Food Coalition. After the preparation of the meal extra items are given to the attendees and then any extra to Nancy for the Marconi community. A turkey dinner was provided at Christmas and a special picnic was provided at the end of June. Special thanks to all our volunteers, the clients who assist with cleanup and Rowntree United Church.

ELUCO Foodbank

Every Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to Noon our Foodbank at Gethsemane Gardens Housing complex is open to those in the area who require food assistance. We are thankful for the loyal, dedicated group of volunteers who see that each family or individual's needs are met. There has been a steady increase in demand this year and it has been extremely expensive to keep the shelves stocked. We are grateful for the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Harvest Bucks program. We would be hard-pressed to do it without you. Special thanks to our churches and individuals who provide groceries or money.

The foodbank provided food for: 635 families - adults 1125, children 519, babies 12 in 2024
467 families- adults 826, children 355, babies 6 in 2023

ELUCO's mandate to work with and advocate for the most vulnerable in our society has not changed in the last 40 years. We have been so blessed to receive funding from the UCC's Mission and Services fund, our partner churches, other churches in ARWR, UCWs, May Court Club of London, Sisters of St. Joseph, Harvest Bucks, Middlesex Health Unit, London Foodbank and our many generous individual donors. A huge shout out to our plethora of volunteers. Thank you, you are always there for us! Together let us work for a just and equitable society for all!

Respectfully submitted by ELUCO Board of Directors

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

2024 Identifiable Givers

This chart shows the Givings for 2024 that contributed to Siloam's operating expenses and outreach initiatives.

Yearly Givings	# of Givers	Amount Given
\$0.00 - \$50.00	44	\$ 1,435.00
\$51.00 - \$100.00	17	\$ 1,510.00
\$101.00 - \$200.00	18	\$ 2,967.00
\$201.00 - \$400.00	22	\$ 6,765.00
\$401.00 - \$600.00	36	\$ 18,027.00
\$601.00 - \$800.00	15	\$ 10,677.00
\$801.00 - \$1,000.00	17	\$ 15,574.00
\$1,001.00 - \$2,000.00	67	\$ 94,010.00
\$2,001.00 - \$3,000.00	24	\$ 60,276.59
\$3,001.00 - \$4,000.00	9	\$ 29,807.34
\$4,001.00 - \$5,000.00	6	\$ 26,155.00
>\$5,000.00	5	\$ 35,884.00

Grand Total	280	\$ 303,087.93
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2024 Financial Report and 2025 Budget with Notes

Account	INCOME	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	% Actual to Budget	Budget 2025	% Budget 2025 to 2024 Actual
31000	Giving Income (Envelopes, PAR, Loose)	\$ 289,210	\$ 321,540	89.95%	\$ 286,700	99.13%
32202	Contribution Income from Trust Fund	\$ 18,426	\$ 25,000	73.70%	\$ 18,100	98.23%
33001	Contribution Income from Rose Birrell	\$ 12,455	\$ 10,000	124.55%	\$ 12,000	96.34%
32205	Contribution Income from UCC Found.	\$ 6,177	\$ 5,700	108.36%	\$ 5,000	80.95%
33002	Sundry Income	\$ 18,948	\$ 13,000	145.75%	\$ 17,000	89.72%
33003	Fundraising	\$ 41,006	\$ 56,000	73.22%	\$ 43,000	104.86%
33004	Grants - 2024 Church Grants	\$ 24,742	\$ 20,000	123.71%	\$ -	0.00%
GARDEN	Garden Project Grants & Produce Sales	\$ 41,853	\$ 40,000	104.63%	\$ 45,750	109.31%
33400	Communication Revenue	\$ 3,363	\$ 500	672.60%	\$ 1,500	44.60%
33500	Outreach Campaigns	\$ 4,230	\$ -			
	TOTAL GIVINGS & OPERATING INCOME	\$ 460,409	\$ 491,740	93.63%	\$ 429,050	93.19%
	EXPENSES					
40000	Personnel - Staff & Contract	\$ 232,258	\$ 245,076	94.77%	\$ 217,852	93.80%
GARDEN	Garden Labour Costs & Expenses	\$ 45,676	\$ 45,676	100.00%	\$ 45,750	100.16%
40309	Council Expenses	\$ 1,183	\$ 3,400	34.79%	\$ 1,000	84.54%
41300	Grant Related Expenses	\$ 1,715	\$ 10,525	16.29%	\$ -	0.00%
41499	M&S - Goal for 2025 is \$15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	80.00%	\$ 15,000	75.00%
41499	Outreach (ELUCO -\$12,000, and other)	\$ 13,650	\$ 13,100	104.20%	\$ 14,800	108.42%
42002	HEAT	\$ 3,345	\$ 4,750	70.42%	\$ 1,400	41.86%
42049	Spiritual Life and Worship	\$ 3,287	\$ 11,646	28.23%	\$ 6,750	205.34%
42599	Congregational Life	\$ 20	\$ 700	2.86%	\$ 440	2200.00%
44001	Fees & Service Charge	\$ 26,414	\$ 25,000	105.65%	\$ 28,102	106.39%
44002	Fundraising Expenses/Repay Trust Loan	\$ 14,228	\$ 8,100	175.65%	\$ 16,500	115.97%
44003	Office, Utilities, Insurance	\$ 35,357	\$ 37,100	95.30%	\$ 37,178	105.15%
44004	Build, Equip, Grounds	\$ 47,213	\$ 55,000	85.84%	\$ 40,000	84.72%
44006	Communications & AV Facility	\$ 37,497	\$ 42,255	88.74%	\$ 39,189	104.51%
	TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 481,842	\$ 527,328	91.37%	\$ 463,961	96.29%
	NET INCOME/DEFICIT	-\$ 21,433	-\$ 35,588	60.23%	-\$ 34,911	162.88%
	Contribution from Trust Fund	\$ 21,433			\$ 34,911	

In order to present a realistic assessment of our financial position once we have a full-time minister, the budget figure for Personnel reflects the cost of a full-time minister for the whole year. This will not be the case in 2025, so the actual cost of Personnel will be lower than budgeted. For example, if a full-time minister begins in September, we anticipate a decrease in Personnel cost of approximately \$26,000.

Although we have budgeted for a deficit of \$34,911 in 2025, as noted above, the deficit will be lower in 2025 and funds from the Trust Fund will be applied to offset any deficit. In consultation with the Board of Trustees, council will continue to monitor the impact of using Trust Funds for this purpose.

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

Siloam United Church

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Ann Corbet welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and asked those in attendance to remember our Siloam members who passed away during 2023 as she read aloud their names. A moment of silence was observed.

Rev. Corbet expressed her appreciation to the many volunteers who work within the church. A special thank you was extended to the following members who are retiring from their duties: Lorraine Huffman and Liz Griffin who have been looking after chancel decorations; Enid Wilson who is stepping down from Rose Birrell duties; and Catherine Glover who has served on Council in so many different areas. Council members were also acknowledged for their work in looking after matters of the church.

Rev. Ann then led us in an opening prayer.

Motion: Moved by Rev. Corbet and seconded by David Dillon to appoint Pauline Newton as Chair of the meeting and Peggy Rivard as Secretary. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Randy Donkervoort and seconded by Tracey Brown to extend voting privileges for the meeting to all adherents in attendance. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Steven Britton to extend Council voting privileges to group leaders attending Council. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Bob Ridley and seconded by Allyn Todd to accept minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting and the November 5, 2023 congregational meeting. CARRIED

New Business:

Acknowledgement and Thanks to Staff and Clergy

Chair Newton expressed her thanks to: Rev. Ann who stepped in as our Interim Minister upon Rev. Macgregor's retirement and has also maintained her role as Minister of Visitation; Marilyn Arthur, our shared Minister of Youth and Young Adults; Allison O'Connor, the coordinator of the Young at Heart each Sunday as well as the director of Dreams Come True Music Studio and the Community of Faith Musical Theatre group; Blythe George, who provides amazing musical leadership; Erin Salter, our administrative assistant and the welcoming "face" of Siloam; the AV team for their outstanding technical work; and Claire Graham, our very capable custodian who keeps the building looking its best. As Chair Newton pointed out, Siloam is so very lucky to have all of these talented and dedicated people working together as a team.

Update on New Minister Hire

Tracey Brown indicated that the Search Committee members had completed the training required for their job and were still in the beginning phase of the work involved in selecting a new minister. There have been applications submitted and all applicants will be given the same fair treatment. At this point, Tracey indicated that the team is organizing the questions that they will be addressing to the applicants.

Business Arising:

Motion: Moved by Margaret Nelson and seconded by Dick Huffman to accept Statistical, Staff, Committee and Affiliated Group Reports for information (except the 2023 Revenue & Expenses Report and the 2024 Budget Plan). CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

Dick Huffman addressed a power point presentation of the 2023 Revenue and Expenses Report. He outlined the reasons for the 2023 deficit with remarks concerning FundScrip, a decline in Givings, the Communications Specialist position, repayment of the CEBA loan and a shortcoming of expected grants. On the positive side, Dick indicated that PAR contributions were up and thanked the Rose Birrell Group for its gift of \$5 000 to help pay Siloam's insurance costs.

Dick pointed out that Council learned from the ARWRC that using interest money earned on investments could be used to eliminate the 2023 deficit. He stressed that by doing this we are eroding the amount of interest money we will have available to use.

Dick continued his presentation with information about the 2024 proposed budget. He first thanked Pauline Newton for her guidance as Acting Chair for Church Council through this difficult time of budget preparation. Dick acknowledged that Council did not want a deficit budget and worked hard to avoid one but it was not possible. In 2024 we expect to have another salary to pay with the hopeful addition of a new minister and we need to start repaying the Trustees for a loan from them which allowed us to pay the CEBA government loan.

Dick summarized by indicating that we will use earnings on investments being managed by the Trustees to offset a budgeted 2024 operating loss of \$35 363.00. He reiterated that such application of investment earnings will not impact the original capital value of funds managed by the Trustees but continuous application of earnings in this manner will erode the amount of earnings available for use.

Motion: Moved by Dick Huffman and seconded by Tracey Brown to approve the 2023 Revenue & Expenses Report. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Liz Griffin and seconded by Bob Ridley to approve the 2024 financial plan. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Randy Donkervoort and seconded by Lynn McClary to approve Mission & Service contribution for 2024. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Tracey Brown to use Famme & Co. for the 2023 audit.

Trustees Report

Allyn Todd indicated that Trustees are preserving capital from assets and are only using the interest earned, as allowed, to cover the 2023 deficit.

Allyn indicated that the Trustees will be investigating a new insurance coverage policy offered through the United Church of Canada in the hope that the premium charged might be lower than the ~\$10 000 fee we are paying this year to our current provider.

The current Board of Trustees membership was announced. Allyn will be the Chair for 2024 and will mentor Dave Peeling who has agreed to become the Chair in 2025.

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Lorna Carnegie to approve the Trustees Report as printed in the Annual Report. CARRIED

Thanks and Acknowledgements to Volunteers

Chair Newton expressed her thanks to many of Siloam's volunteers: Allyn Todd for his introduction and supervision of pickleball within the church; Catherine Glover and Lynn McClary for leading fitness classes; Mary Ella Pettigrew for overseeing successful yard sales; John & Sally Bell and Margaret Smith for organizing the Chicken BBQ; members helping at the ELUCO Food Cupboard each week; Sharon Ashton and others for being part of the Welcome Wednesday lunch program; the Gardening group for maintaining the outside flower beds; Rosemary Todd and Lorna Carnegie, our Envelope Team; Lorraine Huffman and Liz Griffin who have looked after decorating the church; Wib Dawson for his creation of beautiful videos and his expertise in camera operation at our Sunday service; the members of the Rose Birrell group for all the work they do plus the money they donate to the church; everyone who is serving on a church committee and the members of Church Council.

Chair of Council Remarks

Acting Chair of Council, Pauline Newton, reminded us all of how much we have to be grateful for at Siloam. This past year we raised \$9 000 during our Lenten project, hundreds of meals were provided to those in need at the Welcome Wednesday lunches, \$16 000 was given to ELUCO to help with food insecurity for many recipients, 2 000 pounds of food was grown in our Siloam Garden, we became an affirming church community, we received a beautiful new grand piano thanks to the Bruzas family, we hosted a world-reknown speaker (Diana Butler-Bass), our pickleball and exercise classes raised ~\$10 000 in income...and so many more items too numerous to list. Yes, there are some difficulties we must face in 2024. Can we grow our membership? Can we increase our givings? Can we do better at supporting our fundraisers? Can we interest more people in volunteering for events or committees? Pauline asked us all to consider these points.

Nominations Committee Report

The following members of Council have agreed to act as rotating Acting Chair of Council for 2024: January/February - Pauline Newton; March/April - Dave Dunham; May/June - Allyn Todd; July/August - Margaret Smith; September/October - John Davidson; November/December - Lynn McClary. Currently, we have vacancies for Chair Elect of Council, Chair of Council, Chair of Congregational Resources Committee

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Allyn Todd to appoint Tracey Brown Chair of Communications Committee; to appoint Jim Anderson and John Little to the Congregational Resources Committee.

CARRIED

Closing Remarks and Prayer:

Rev. Ann thanked Pauline and Dick for their leadership in the meeting. In her closing prayer, Rev. Corbet offered thanks for all that we have at Siloam and asked for us to be encouraged for what lies ahead.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Pauline Newton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

**Siloam United Church
Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, April 7, 2024

11:45 A.M.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer

Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler welcomed the congregational members and adherents to this special meeting and offered words of thanks and an opening prayer.

Motion: Moved by Rev. Crick-Butler and seconded by Tracey Brown that Pauline Newton be appointed Chair for the meeting and Peggy Rivard be appointed Secretary for the meeting. **CARRIED**

Introductory Words by Chair

Chair Newton gave an explanation as to why the congregational meeting must be held at this time. She then asked for a motion to extend voting privileges to adherents in attendance. **Motion:** Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Mike Bukata to extend voting privileges for the meeting to all adherents in attendance. **CARRIED** **Motion:** Moved by David Dillon and seconded by Bruce Challis whereas Marilyn Arthur was appointed to a joint youth ministry position as a Designated Lay Minister at a joint meeting of First-St. Andrew's, Metropolitan and Siloam United Churches on February 13, 2022 and, whereas Marilyn Arthur has since completed her qualifications to be commissioned as a Diaconal Minister, we move that First-St. Andrew's United Church, Metropolitan United Church and Siloam United Church jointly extend a provisional call to Marilyn Arthur to the position of Minister of Youth and Young Adults. **CARRIED**

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Pauline Newton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

**Siloam United Church
Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, May 12, 2024

11:45 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Ann Corbet welcomed and thanked all members and adherents for being present at this meeting. She noted that Council members discussed the topic of the meeting at great length and came to a very difficult decision which must be presented to the congregation. Rev. Ann then gave an opening prayer.

Motion: Moved by Rev. Ann Corbet and seconded by Mike Bukata that Allyn Todd be appointed as Chair of the meeting and Peggy Rivard be appointed as Secretary of the meeting. CARRIED **Motion:** Moved by Mike Bukata and seconded by Dave Dunham to extend voting privileges to adherents in attendance. CARRIED

Background Information

Pauline Newton, Chair of Ministry and Personnel, explained that Siloam needs to make a decision about our association with Metropolitan and First-St. Andrews with regard to the shared Youth and Young Adults Ministry program under the leadership of Marilyn Arthur. After carefully examining Siloam's declining financial position, Council members feel Siloam must withdraw from this agreement and give the required 270 days notice of said withdrawal. Pauline emphasized that this was in NO way a reflection of Marilyn's work but instead a decision based on Siloam's inability to cover our share of Marilyn's salary.

Pauline made it clear that our Young At Heart program will continue to flourish as always. She also stressed that Marilyn's ministry will continue and be available to all youth from various churches including Siloam, First-St. Andrews and Metropolitan.

Lynn McClary, Treasurer, outlined clearly how much the givings at Siloam are down this year as compared to the same time last year. At this rate, we will once again face a large deficit at the end of the year. Lynn pointed out that we cannot rely on interest earned from our Trust Funds managed by the Trustees to carry us every year.

Motion: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Sheridan Griffin that Siloam withdraw from the shared agreement with Metropolitan and First-St. Andrews regarding the Youth and Young Adults Ministry program. CARRIED (71 secret ballots were cast: agree - 65; disagree - 6)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Ann closed with prayer.

Allyn Todd, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

Siloam United Church
Minutes of Congregational Meeting
December 8, 2024

The meeting was called following the church service.

MOTION: Moved by Rev. Ann Corbet and seconded by Tracey Brown that Dave Dunham be appointed as Chair of the meeting and Peggy Rivard be appointed as secretary. CARRIED

Chair Dunham explained the purpose of the meeting: to amend the wording of Siloam's 2024 budgeted line for Mission and Services to "goal" rather than "amount".

Lynn McClary, Treasurer of Siloam, then explained the church's financial situation. To date, Siloam has contributed \$18,163.00 to M & S--this is made up of the amount we budgeted from January to July plus \$3,580 that was raised through a special 2024 Thanksgiving campaign that was directed specifically to raise funds for M & S. At the AGM in February, 2024, the congregation voted on an "amount" of \$25,000 to be sent to M & S this year.

Because of a projected large deficit this year, the Treasurer, with Council's approval, has suggested that we ask the congregation to change the wording in the M & S budget line to approve a "goal" of a monetary amount rather than an "amount".

Lynn pointed out that if December givings are higher than normal, it is possible that Siloam could actually attain enough money to send the full budgeted amount of \$25,000 to M & S this year.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Al Newton that the budget passed at our annual meeting be amended to change the budget commitment of \$25,000 for Mission and Services to a goal of \$25,000. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Pauline Newton that the meeting adjourn. CARRIED

