

2014 Annual Report



Orleans United Church

1111 Orleans Blvd.

Orleans, Ontario K1C 7C8

613-837-4321

www.orleansunitedchurch.com

orleansunited@rogers.com

Contents

Orleans United 2014 Statistics	5
Baptisms	6
In Memoriam.....	7
Council.....	7
Ministers' Report.....	8
Learning Ministry	10
Children's Ministry.....	10
Youth Ministry	10
Adult Ministries Committee	12
Stewardship Conversation	12
Scouting	13
Worship Ministry	154
Worship Committee	154
Music Director	154
Elders.....	165
Care Ministry	187
Care and Support Team	187
Coffee Hour.....	197
Communications Ministry Team.....	198
Outreach.....	20
Outreach	20
Interchurch Refugee Group	20
Mission and Service Fund.....	23
Ottawa Presbytery	24
Resource Ministry.....	25
Ministry and Personnel Committee	25
Property	26
Finance	25
Fundraising	28
Revenue Stability Task Force.....	28
Board of Trustees	30
Future Directions.....	29
Financial Statements	Appendix

Orleans United 2014 Statistics

Members at December 2013: 1069

Added:

By Transfer 11

By Profession of Faith 07

Confirmation 11

Adult Baptism 01

Total 30

Removed:

By Transfer 12

By Death 01

13

Total 1086

Members at December 2014

Non Resident Members 112

Actual Members 974

Baptisms 24

Weddings 08

Funerals/Memorial Services 06



Baptisms

Luca William Lariviere

Blake Patrick Turcotte

Finnegan Eric Moore

Antonia Grace Nadine Martella

Ethan Matthew Stewart

Cruz James Toner

Isaac Alexander Cobb

Eva Claire Gustajtis-Stoudt

Ethan Alexander MacDonald

Corbin Kenneth Douglas Currie

Annabel Monique Brownlee Levasseur

Lilian Ropse Hewat

Tyson William Chin

Rosalie Maureen Mary Sapinski

Charlie Richard Michael Sapinski

Ethan James McDonald

Madelyn Grace Sheppard

Amelia Faith McRae

Lily Hope McRae

Ryan Frederick Michael Berry

Phoenix James Crosby

Isaac John Merchant

Quinn Michael Stonier

Mike Bennett



In Memoriam

Elston McCourt

Wayne Smith

Sheila Beck

Joan Miller

Leona Carter

Raymond Lamoureux



*“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”*

Psalm 91

Council

This has been a most interesting and in some respects, a challenging year. We have adopted a new Council structure which consists of 11 voting members: 3 lead members, *Chair (Don Mumby), Co-Chair (Robin Januska, incoming) and Past Chair (Heather McGrath)*; 6 Members at Large (*Paul Beaulieu, Angela Fenton, Dave Lawrence, Suzanne Leger, Cheryl Marvin and Brenda Sutherland*); and Resource Members, *Treasurer (George Teather), Secretary (Robbie Chapman) and Clergy (non-voting)*. All except the Clergy have been elected by the Congregation.

The primary tasks of this New Council are:

- To build stronger connections within and between the Ministry Teams in the Congregation,
- To guide the future directions of the Congregation
- To encourage grass roots ministry activities among individuals and groups of the Congregation,
- To oversee and conduct the ongoing business of the Congregation, and
- To model and facilitate more collaborative leadership throughout the Congregation.

All members of Council have approached their new duties with a great deal of zeal and attachment, adapting well to this new format. Ministry Teams can make presentations to Council, and several reports and presentations have been received.

The strength of this new Council rests with the Members at Large who have not only fostered strong and good working relationships with Ministry Team Leaders, but are working towards facilitating strong and collaborative relationships between Ministry Teams themselves and between Ministry Teams and Council. The efforts of all Members at Large are noted and deeply appreciated.

The large role played by volunteers in the life and work of our Congregation must be noted. Volunteers play a major role in the life of the congregation – everything from involvement in Team Ministries, to fund-raising initiatives, to the highly successful bazaar, to our active commitment within the Inter-church Refugee Council, to groundskeepers and so forth. Without their support and assistance OUC would not be as strong or forward looking as it is today. Our need for assistance is on-going and acute and we ask you to consider volunteering in some manner. You will find it personally satisfying and rewarding.

Sincere thanks and appreciation must also be directed towards our Ministry Team, Rev. Glen and Rev. Molly. They have provided invaluable advice, guidance and encouragement to Council as we have set out, albeit somewhat cautiously, along this new path. From a personal perspective their combined assistance has been invaluable. We in OUC are fortunate to have such a caring, concerned, and dedicated Ministry Team. Truly they go above and beyond the call of duty in meeting the needs of this Congregation on a daily basis. We are most grateful for all that you do.

A special word of thanks to Scott for the inspired music ministry, and to Jean, Kim and Darlene and all those who help in the office. Your talents and willingness to be of assistance to everyone is most noteworthy.

And finally a note of appreciation to Robin and Heather for all that you do in our effort to provide collaborative leadership to this Council.

The coming year should see us becoming more comfortable with the new Council structure. We hope it enables us to grow in our support and caring for our Church and for the wider community.

Don Mumby
Chair of Council

Ministers' Report

We serve Orleans United as its paid accountable ministers in an equal, collaborative team. Together we work as partners alongside each other, other paid staff members and many volunteer leaders of our church to encourage and grow the ministries and programs this congregation strives to provide. Building meaningful faith relationships and developing the next generation of leaders within our faith community are high priorities for our team ministry. We feel honoured to fulfill these roles and take seriously our responsibilities.

In 2014, the ministry team undertook to help guide OUC's Council through its transition to a new, more streamlined Council structure. There was a great deal of hard work from former Council members who led this congregation while at the same time imagining a leadership model for the future. We were pleased to be part of such a dedicated group of leaders and appreciate their willingness to stretch beyond their comfort zones to imagine new ways of organizing our church. Of course, this also meant that a new Council was elected, with many fresh faces around the table. The second half of the year has been a dynamic learning time for all thirteen of us who now serve as OUC's Council; we worked diligently to help the members of Council discover effective ways they will function together. It is a challenging and rewarding time for us.

Recognizing the significant changes in staffing that OUC will face in the next two years, as well as the structural changes that the United Church of Canada anticipates in the near future, we have been focusing energy and prayerful discernment into succession planning for this congregation. In consultation with Council, M&P, and with Ottawa Presbytery, we have begun the work that will allow this congregation to plan for their future needs in terms of both staffing and governance. Along with the inevitable anxiety that such changes bring, as a ministry team we continue to see the Spirit alive in this congregation and look to the future of Orleans United with a sense of optimism and possibility.

One of the ways we describe our collective role in church is how we enable and enhance the main ministry areas of the congregation. Three of the ministry areas are dedicated to building up the life, faith, and community spirit among the hundreds of people who consider OUC their church home. They include Worship, Learning, and Care, and we dedicate 75% of our work-time to make sure everyone experiences Christ's love in meaningful and uplifting ways through those ministries. Another 10% of our time is committed to help focus and guide OUC's Outreach programs and our collaborative efforts with outside groups. In addition, 15% of our collective energies are devoted to strengthening the many church volunteers and to developing current and new leaders among our people. We consider the time we spend working among OUC people as a vital contribution to the health and well-being of our faith community now and in the future.

These are long-term relationships which are nurtured over time. As part of Molly's sabbatical this year, she spent time intentionally exploring issues in long-term pastorates (defined as a minister remaining with a congregation for 7 or more years). This was part of her larger effort to consider her ministry aspirations as well the ministry needs of Orleans United as a congregation. Her study and reflection affirmed with her the many advantages and benefits of a long-term pastorate for both the congregation and the minister, and she returned from her sabbatical recommitted to her ministry with OUC and with wisdom to share with us all.

In the year ahead we will continue to serve the present needs of our people while we help prepare this congregation for the inevitable changes that the future brings. It is a work of faith that we embrace together and offer to God and you, our friends in faith.

In Christ,
Rev. Molly and Rev. Glen

Learning Ministry

Providing a path for people of all ages to move along their own faith journeys in ways that feel comfortable and purposeful, and nurturing each other's spiritual growth and faith in God. These learning ministries, reported below are: Children's Ministry; Youth Ministry; Adult Ministries; Stewardship Conversation; and Scouting.

Children's Ministry

Members: Sara Washburn-Pichette, Joanna Adair, Sarah Adair, Suzanne Allen, Colleen Ames-Affleck, Alexandra Baillie-David, David Clarke, Esther Clarke, Wendy Fortier, Catherine Hodgins, Peter Holt, Ethel McLeod, Andrew Nicholls, Sheila Parisien, Michel Pichette, Grace Steed (and many, many more substitute and summer teachers, Camp Awesome and Christmas Pageant volunteers!)

2014 has been another busy year for the Children's Ministry. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful youngsters in our church family.

After trying a few different curricula for our grades 4- 5- 6 class, we are now using "Gospel Light" and find it a much better fit for our maturing preteens. We continue to use "Grow" curriculum for our three younger classes as it provides a variety of fun activities for each lesson and, most importantly, is relatively easy for our teacher volunteers to follow without too much preparation time required. This year we were able to acquire additional resource items, many of these donated by members of the congregation. The Nursery and younger classrooms were stocked with some newer toys and books. We also purchased additional resource materials for our teachers, including new "Spark" bibles, which are much easier for young readers to follow.

During the regular school year, our Nursery offers care for children ages 0-3 with one paid support staff accompanied by a dedicated Youth volunteer. We have 11 talented regular teachers who alternate weeks providing Sunday School for Preschool to Grade 6. We are fortunate to have a list of invaluable substitute teacher volunteers, parent helpers and an occasional music leader. During the summer months, the Nursery remains open with the help of parent volunteers. With overall attendance lower in the summer, we use a "One Room Sunday School" model and recruit weekly volunteers, typically parents, who always do a wonderful job. For a fun-filled week in July, we host Camp Awesome where our young campers enjoy wonderful learning experiences and activities under the care of two Coordinators and an army of parent and church volunteers. And every year, the Christmas pageant is a great success with a multi-generational approach and a modern plot twist. With the creative talent of our resident playwright, Marni Hunt-Stephens, and a whole lot of volunteers, the children are able to learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all our amazing volunteers! With all of your help and expertise we are able to deliver a truly wonderful program for the children of OUC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Washburn-Pichette, Chair

Budget:

Item / Event	Expenses	Revenues /Deposits	Notes
Nursery Care	\$692.00		
Sundae Sunday	\$74.47	\$201.95	All revenue was deposited in the OUC Benevolent Fund
Sunday School Offerings	\$94.72	\$1,648.68	Expenses are for 2015 Offering Envelopes
Curriculum	\$2,396.71		
Supplies	\$1,159.17		
Other	\$154.75		
Camp Awesome	\$2,808.57	\$3,062.00	There was a \$253.43 surplus left in this pass-through account
Amount approved by Council		\$4,815	(excluding Camp Awesome (CA))
Total expenditures	\$4,571.82		(excluding CA)
Total revenues		\$1,850.63	(excluding CA/including Benevolent Fund deposit)

Youth Ministry

OUC Youth Ministry provides opportunities for Youth and Young Adults to gather in faith, fellowship, and fun. Youth Ministry seeks to meet the social, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Youth members of Orleans United. Youth Ministry consists of the following programs: Sunday Morning class, Young Adults, Youth Elders, Confirmation, Mission and Outreach, 8th Orleans Scouting liaison, OUC Youth Leader Training, Youth Employment.

This report only covers the activities that are the responsibility of Youth Ministry, and not the Youth group itself. Some of the outstanding achievements for 2014 include:

- We exceeded our revenue target of \$1020 by 45.4%. Our total revenue contribution was \$1482.61, which was 46.2% of our expenses for 2014.
- Further renovations to the Youth Lounge this year included upgraded audio/visual equipment and a portable whiteboard.
- We had another meaningful Confirmation program where ten (10) exceptional young people and their dedicated adult mentors journeyed together in faith over the course of several months. We were pleased to welcome all as Members of the United Church of Canada and Orleans United Church.
- We clarified the Youth programs and services governance model with Council, and established a ground breaking financial agreement with the Youth group (OUC Youth). The church now acts as a bank for the Youth owned funds. The Youth group continues to provide youth with leadership development opportunities including managing their own programming and finances.
- We welcomed a new OUC Youth Leader, Ryan Johnson.
- We continue to be served by long standing Youth Leaders: Sarah Benfield, Marni Hunt-Stephens, Robin Januska and Rev. Molly. Thank you very much for helping to deliver quality programs to the Youth of Orleans United Church

- We held our first B4G (Beverage for God) event for our Young Adult cohort (ages 19 to 29)
- The annual goals and objectives document was produced as a collaborative effort between Youth Ministry and the Youth group (OUC Youth)
- We continue to send a representative to sit on the monthly 8th Orleans Group committee meeting.
- The unique partnership that exists between Orleans United Church's Youth Ministry and the Youth Group (OUC Youth) continues to evolve and thrive.
- Due to rising program costs, and an unwillingness to raise our 2015 budget request, we have eliminated the "financial assistance" line from our 2015 budget. Requests for financial assistance for retreat and event registrations will now be considered individually at the discretion of Council.

It was an exceptional year, full of fellowship and an ever growing program that has been a joy to be involved with. 2015 promises to be a year of change for the Youth program as a large cohort of 6 Youth graduate.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Parsche, Chair, Youth Ministry

Adult Ministries Committee

The Adult Ministries Committee encourages educational programs focused on adult members of our congregation. In February 2014, our Lenten discussion groups studied Pastor Martin Thielen's book, "What is the Least I can Believe and still be a Christian: a Guide to What Matters Most". For Oktober School this year, the OUC Care and Support Team sponsored an excellent presentation and discussion on the issues facing gay seniors in the broader Christian church. As well, Rev. Nancy Best took the opportunity to present an amazing account of her rather dangerous visit to Israel and Palestine during the recent troubles in Gaza and the West Bank. Her comments on the plight of Palestinian Arabs, both Christian and Muslim, were very moving. In November and early December we led an Advent study for both afternoon and evening groups based on Brian D. McLaren's book, "We Make the Road by Walking". This was complemented by an on-line study of the same material led by our Ministers. Other OUC Bible studies continue to be active year-round, such as the men's breakfast group and the Java Jive led by Rev. Glen, and of course the summer on-line Bible Study (SOBS).

Annual Observer subscriptions remain constant, and the OUC Library continues to be capably run by Brenda Grassau. Some new Bibles were purchased for the Library in 2014 (the old ones were beyond saving), however we continue to rely mostly on donations from the congregation for new stock. Please consider donating any lightly used books on religious topics to the OUC Library.

The Adult Ministries committee gratefully welcomes any and all suggestions for involving adult members of OUC in learning more about our faith.

Shirley and Peter Holt
Co-chairs

Stewardship Conversation

Over the past 3½ years this ministry team has met to shape the broader stewardship directions of our church. We see ourselves focusing stewardship beyond the annual financial stewardship campaign even though we do offer guidance to the ministers and financial leaders in ways to honestly talk about money in worship and conversations.

We understand stewardship “as a life of faithful partnership with God in response to God’s invitation to work cooperatively with God and each other to care for God’s creation and all those who inhabit it”. We do this best by **participating** in OUC’s ministry programs, **volunteering** with OUC’s ministry teams, and **financially supporting** OUC’s overall mission and activities. We recognize that this is a work in progress for all of us, but we encourage this kind of response as an act of faith.

2014 has been a challenging year. We’ve been in hiatus for most of the year as we re-imagine what our next steps will be. But we did meet in early February and engaged in a wonderful discussion on stewardship as “**sharing God’s goodness.**” This prompted a successful Lenten program ... a calendar of suggestion to do a different good thing daily as you remember Jesus’ journey to Easter. That conversation also began an ongoing exploration of the different ways we experience and express goodness in everyday living.

Informal conversations in the Spring stimulated a reconsideration of how we use the “Narrative Budget” or “Ministry-Story Budget” at OUC. This has given rise to a description of “The Message at the Heart of Our 2015 Budget” which everyone will see at the Annual Meeting (February, 2015). We hope that looking at OUC’s annual finances through the lens of the many dynamic ministries those dollars make possible, will be another healthy way to speak about money together.

A few of the participants convened again in September and began the task of rejuvenating the purpose and direction of the Stewardship Conversation. We affirmed our mandate to explore, recognize and promote meaningful ways to partner with God and each other. In that conversation we pondered how stewardship is like “**fruitfulness**” and this led to our ministers’ 4-part stewardship sermon series in November –

1] Fruitfulness: Cultivating Your Attitude; 2] Fruitful Giving: The Spirit of Generosity; 3] Fruitfulness: Developing Your Talents; and 4] Fruitful Living: The Spirit of Usefulness. Those sermons are available on OUC’s website.

We’re not sure what 2015 will bring for our group, but we keep in touch and are hopeful that the Spirit will open up new insights and directions. Whether formally or informally, stewardship conversations are happening all the time around OUC. We are grateful to play a part in generating those discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Glen Stoudt

for John Gibson (convener), Paul Sales, Ken Richardson, Michelle Hanson, Aileen Martella



8th Orleans Scout Group

The 8th Orleans Scout Group has had another successful year in the life of Orleans United Church. Our continued success is attributable to a program based on the three tenets of the Scouting program, duty to God, duty to others and duty to self. The group provides a program which overlaps Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries and Outreach as it provides programming for boys and girls aged from five through 26 years of age with approximately half of the membership coming from the congregation and the other half having no other affiliation with Orleans United Church. Last year, as is the Scouting way, our group went on over 28 camps with the youth and numerous other outdoor day activities. We started the year with our second annual Group-Wide camp with all sections represented, and had many camps throughout the year with sections linking with either a section higher or lower or a peer section. Our focus this past year was Youth led programs with every section getting their Youth more involved in planning and where appropriate running the program. It is our Rovers (the 18-26 year olds) who run our Group-Wide camp for us as their service to the Group.

8th Orleans Scout Group plays an integral part in the life of Orleans United Church, which, in addition to our weekly meetings in the church, we have included conducting the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, active participation in the congregation's observances of Remembrance Day and other service to the Church. Scouting is continuing to develop a strong history at Orleans United Church, and this is evident in how many of our youth are working at summer camps, how many community service projects we do, both for the Church and the community at large. We are developing youth who are service and community orientated.

Last year we had over 150 Youth and Adult members in 8 sections. We have 4 sections that meet at the Church on Monday night, 2 sections at Convent Glen Catholic school on Monday and 1 at the school on Tuesday's. Our Rovers tend to meet off site.

Orleans United Church's sponsorship of the 8th Orleans Scout Group allows us to provide one of the best youth programs to our own and the surrounding community's youth that is focused on developing good citizens who have the opportunity to explore their own spirituality, help others and develop their own life skills in an outdoor environment.

Our continued growth and success can be attributed to our excellent leaders as well as the support that we receive from Orleans United Church, our sponsor. Thank you!

Alan Clapp
Group Commissioner
8th Orleans Scout Group

Worship Ministry

Celebrating God's love together with others who share our faith; discerning God's wisdom and will for our lives; nurturing our spirits to go forth into the world around us, rejuvenated and refreshed in God's spirit. These Worship ministries, reported below are: Worship Committee; Music Director; and Elders.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is comprised of two clergy and seven lay members, and meets about four times a year. Its mandate is to enhance worship through various means.

The Committee is responsible for making sure that the nuts and bolts needed for worship are readily available: palm crosses at Easter, poppies for Remembrance, candles and tapers, use of banners, storage of infrequently used resources, ensuring appropriate display of flags; all things that help welcome worshipers in their space. The Committee is also responsible for taking note of congregational concerns and acting as liaison to worship leaders, nurturing creativity and ensuring that ideas get to those who can make them happen. There is a budget for the provision of pulpit supply, guest musicians, and other needs.

This year, members have been looking at ways to address the carpet deterioration and revamp the ramp at the front of the sanctuary to newer specifications; ways to improve technical equipment; and innovative but meaningful ways to administer Communion. Serving Communion at the front of the sanctuary seems popular. The idea of having a congregational historian is also being explored. One innovation this year was reimagining Christmas Eve services into very young family, older family, and more a contemplative service, spaced far enough apart that parking problems would be alleviated.

We have continued to provide orders of service in PowerPoint by projection, except for the months of July and August. We have also experimented with filming some sermons and adding them to the OUC website.

We are looking forward to an interesting year and as always, we welcome new members.

Respectfully submitted,
David Patterson, Chair

Music Director

2014 was a very successful year for the OUC music programme. Senior Choir membership grew, especially in the sopranos, and the numbers in each section made for a solid ensemble sound this year. Our Advent carol service was a highlight, as usual. Thanks to the Senior Choir for their dedication to offering the highest quality of music to the congregation week after week.

Our new Junior Choir continues to grow in confidence, and numbers remain healthy. Although the Junior Choir singers are very young, they show great musical maturity and dedication to preparing their selections.

Both choirs once again brought their musical gifts to the wider community at the Orleans Choirfest, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2014.

Although our teen choir was not able to continue on a regular basis, some of those singers were able to lend their voices in worship on occasion; we were pleased at 5:00 on Christmas Eve to hear from a quartet consisting of these talented teens.

Pat Messier has again been a great musical blessing to the congregation. She has filled in during my absences, including some special services such as Ash Wednesday worship, and this year she provided support for the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. Lori Lynn Penny has also offered her gifts as a pianist during my vacation weeks, and as a vocal soloist during the summer season. Both Pat and Lori Lynn deserve a huge thank you from OUC for their contributions.

OUC is fortunate to have many talented individuals offering their musical gifts to the congregation throughout the year, especially during the summer months and during the Advent/Christmas season. Thanks to Graeme Ogilvie for his bagpiping on Remembrance Day and during our special celebration of St. Andrew's Day. A huge thank you goes to Kelly Richardson for sharing her own gifts with OUC. Thanks to Kelly as well for encouraging her flute students to play for the congregation throughout the year, particularly Talia and Amy Cameron, and Emma Campbell. Violinists Ian Richardson and Julianne Brazeau both offered their gifts this year. Jessica and Amanda Nicholls also contributed to worship over the Christmas season. OUC was blessed by many vocal soloists, especially through July and August, including Nikki Fitzpatrick, Sarah Benfield, Gary and Jeff Boyd, and Dave MacWilliam. Former OUC Music Director Paul Sales again shared his talents with the congregation. We were also treated to selections from a vocal quartet including Hari Gupta and Alex Mirhady of OUC. And in January, Atlantic Voices joined forces with our OUC choir for a special anthem. My apologies to anyone whose names I have unintentionally omitted. We have a wealth of musical talent at OUC, and everyone's contributions are deeply appreciated.

Submitted by Scott Richardson,
OUC Music Director

Elders

2014 continued to be a year of growth and change for the Elders. We welcomed five new members to the committee- Bill & Lisa Meek, Kimberly Unterganschnigg, and Marie and Denny Ruddick. The Elders will be seeking approval from the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting for these 5 individuals to become official members of the Elders Committee. In this past year we also said good bye and thank you to two members of the committee who resigned: Dale Bursey and Marie Holness. The Elders thank both Dale and Marie for their many years of support to the congregation and for their contributions to the Elders Committee. The Elders supported Andrew Nichols and Alison Sales as they pursued their faith journey in the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Course.

We hosted two Making Connections events inviting everyone to join us in the hall for cookies, coffee, and conversation. Making Connections has become an opportunity for newcomers to the church to get to know each other, an opportunity for everyone to network, and get to know others in the congregation in similar stages of life. It has also served as a social opportunity to enhance the visibility of the Elders as we strive to facilitate the integration of individuals into the life, work and fellowship of Orleans United Church. Last February we hosted a "Pot Luck Lunch" encouraging and welcoming everyone to share a meal together in the hall.

The Elders served the sacrament of communion on 8 occasions; approved and assisted in 24 baptisms; approved 8 weddings; and ensured that the Welcome Table operated effectively to welcome newcomers and visitors into the church. Elders led the Pentecost worship service on June 1, 2014. Our efforts to meet and support parents seeking to have their child(ren) baptized has been extremely successful. Many families have become active members of the congregation. This year the Elders took over the budget regarding the purchase of bibles given at baptisms. The Bible chosen is a toddler bible by Zondervan. The Elders also supported Rev. Glen and Rev. Janet Neild during Rev. Molly's sabbatical from April to August.

Over the course of the year the Elders have responded to concerns from the congregation regarding distribution of bread and juice during communion by intinction and concerns regarding the distribution of

communion elements to children in Sunday school. We also reviewed our wedding policy and the policy of the United Church regarding same sex marriages. We continue to work with the Ministers and Committee Chairs in an effort to support all of the needs and concerns of the congregation.

Youth Elders take leadership roles with the youth of the congregation. They support the Nursery and Sunday school program, lead several youth fundraising initiatives, and lead a youth service. Several youth Elders assisted with communion and participated in worship services. Four new members joined in 2014: Liam Meek, Emma Meek, Katrina Parsche, and Michael Gorley

The goals for 2015 are to explore methods to enhance the welcoming experience into the church. We hope to continue recruiting new members to the committee in an effort to serve the growing needs of the congregation. We also hope to find a co-chair in order to provide continuity for the future of the committee. The Elders believe serving the congregation is a rewarding demonstration of faith in action. Our focus will be to enhance the welcoming experience into the church; assist newcomers in their efforts to integrate and belong as members of the OUC faith family. The Elders support individuals trying to become more active in the church including supporting candidates for Ministry. We will continue support the Ministers by actively participating in worship services and serving as a liaison with Council, other committees, and the congregation to share information and respond to the needs of all.

Active Members of Elders: Rev. Dr. Glen Stoudt; Rev. Molly Bell; Beverley Arnott; Alex Baillie-David; Megan Baker; Olivia Best, Flora Crombie, Phil and Sheila Chrysler, Julia Elliott; Andrea Fisher, Bonnie Gilhooly; Michael Gorely; Brenda Grassau; Gord Gray; Twylla Hodgins; Peter Holt; Shirley Holt; Paige Jarvis; Bill Low; Dorann Low; Cheryl Marvin; Bill Meek; Emma Meek; Liam Meek; Lisa Meek; Andrew Nicholls, Jill Parkinson; Katrina Parsche; Donna Pinke, Marie Ruddick; Denny Duddick; Jean Shaddick; Joshua Simpson; Avery Steed; Brenda Sutherland; Kimberly Unterganschnigg; Heather Young and Stephen Young.

Respectfully submitted,
Twylla Hodgins

Care Ministry

Expressing God's love for us all by supporting people in our church through our prayers and deeds; and choosing to share God's compassion with the wider community. These Care ministries, reported below are: Care and Support Team; Coffee Hour Ministry; and Communications.

Care and Support Team

Orleans United Church's Care and Support Team is a team currently comprised of 15 members including a Chair and a Past Chair. Rev Glen is our spiritual leader and he participates within the team, offering counsel and support. Our mandate is to support the congregation in times of need, illness and grief, and celebration.

There were many needs and activities that kept us busy throughout 2014 as we continued to arrange for caring casseroles, give comfort bears, write letters and cards, assist with funerals, memorials and special services, visit homes, hospitals and residences and maintain the alcove, email and prayer chain. Our Team provided care and comfort to the lonely, grieving, ill, and depressed, as well as those that were celebrating. The Care and Support Team provided transportation when needed and were there for those who needed company.

Some of the activities we undertook were

Courses

- **Pastoral Care Course** – Two of our newer members attended March 2014
- **Power of Choice** – Two members attended.

Seasons of Life – May Seniors Tea and Resource Fair

The Care and Support Team hosted a successful Seniors Tea and Resource Fair for over 90 seniors. Our guest speaker was Lisa Swant of Libra, who spoke about healthy retirement. After luncheon, seniors were invited to do a walkabout of the more than 20 vendors who provided valuable information on anything concerning health, wellness, assistance, travel, and finances. The Care and Support Team provided sandwiches and sweets, with Denise O'Connor taking the lead to organize and coordinate, while Angele Gagnon, David Clemis (also MC) and Janice Eddy coordinated the resource vendors. Our good will offering brought in a total of just over \$600.00 for OUC.

One of our vendors invited our Team to host a CST meeting at their Residence "The Promenade" in June. We were graciously treated to tea/coffee and sweets, followed by an excellent tour of their facility.

Soup for Fellowship and a Seat

It was agreed among our members that many of our congregation enjoyed the fellowship that the Soup for the Loo provided and so the team decided to do another soup lunch in the fall. As it turned out, this provided a very good venue to kick-off a fundraiser to provide new chairs in the hall to replace the old and damaged wooden chairs. The free will offering from Soup for a Seat brought in \$940.00 towards new chairs. By Christmas the congregation had raised enough to purchase 150 new chairs.

Summer Coverage – There were a number of unexpected and significant needs (due to illness and death) that the Care and Support Team continued to cover over the summer.

Mini Retreat - During our November meeting the Care and Support Team participated in a mini retreat centered around caring and compassion. It was a moving and spiritual experience, bringing the group closer together and the team very much appreciated David Clemis and Rev. Glen's leadership.

Seasons of Life – November 12 – Where there's a Will...

The Care and Support Team provided support to and worked in collaboration with The OUC Stability Task Force who invited Jon Richardson and Paul Sales to give a workshop on "Where There's a Will..." for estate planning and legacy giving. The coffee time provided the opportunity for individuals to sit and chat with both Jon and Paul.

In November we once again called and sent thank you cards and notes to present and retired members of the military thanking them for their committed service to our country.

Alcove/Email/Prayer Chain

CST continues to be present in our Alcove; to chat with anyone who wishes to talk or who has concerns that we may be able to assist with. Individuals are encouraged to request prayers by placing them in our prayer box which is on the table in the CST Alcove or through our prayer chain: mmmoore@sympatico.ca, first names only. Alternatively members of the congregation can request assistance through our confidential email ouc.cst@rogers.com.

Caring Casseroles/Care Bears/Greeters/Cards and Letters/Telephone Calls

Many casseroles were provided to members of the congregation who needed that extra helping hand at home, whether because of illness or overwhelmed with a stressful situation, grief, or even a joyful celebration such as the birth of a baby.

Care Bears were distributed with love, and our faithful writer of cards and letters, Bev Arnott, sent many condolences, good wishes, thinking of you and special event notes.

Funerals/Memorials/Special Services

The Care and Support Team assisted in funerals and memorials throughout the year to be a gentle presence, while helping at a difficult time.

Under Rev. Glen's leadership CST participated in/hosted "**The Candlelight Vigil**", December 17, for anyone feeling fragile at Christmas. It was a lovely, soft, safe and spiritual time for those who feel especially vulnerable during the holiday season.

Respectfully submitted.

Janice Eddy

Chair, Care and Support Team

Coffee Hour

Many of our congregation look forward to an hour of fellowship each Sunday following worship in the Sanctuary. Stephen and I are so grateful to the many volunteers who have offered their time and baking talents to help set up the coffee, tea, juice and muffins. We purchase the coffee, tea, sugar and sugar sweetener and keep track of when replacement is needed. Volunteers are responsible for the milk, cream and juice, with the choice of being reimbursed from the free will offering.

Approximately 60 - 80 cups of coffee are consumed along with an undetermined amount of tea and juice each week with a free will offering collected to help off-set expenses. Volunteers may recover costs from these offerings, but many decline. A guideline sheet is available, as well as ourselves to help newcomers join the program. Approximately \$40.00 to \$60.00 is collected each week, which is then counted and deposited in a collection envelope found in the Coffee Cupboard in the Kitchen. Once counted and totalled, the envelope is deposited in the locked collection box in the Church Office, where the Church Secretary looks after this final

stage. It should also be mentioned, that this part of the fellowship is definitely not a “one man job” since clean up after, requires many hands.

Co-ordinators are responsible for the sign-up sheets, posted outside the kitchen window and keep an eye on them to see who has signed up and be prepared to step in, if no one has offered for any particular week. From time to time, various groups from within the congregation offer soup or some form of luncheon as a fundraiser, which is a nice change of format and a welcome break for us. Jean Shaddick provides the cookies and lemonade during the summer months and we provide sign-up sheets for this as well.

Stephen and I have decided to step down as co-ordinators effective the end of June. This will give the congregation time to consider filling this position, knowing that we will be available to help you ease into this part of the ministry. Again, we want to thank the many who have participated in this important part of our Church Life. It has been a rewarding experience and we have been very happy to provide this time of fellowship each week.

Heather and Stephen Young
Coffee Coordinators

Communications Ministry Team

The work of “messaging” the identity, purpose and programs of Orleans United Church is done both inwardly to our membership (as a ministry of care) and outwardly to the neighbourhood (as a ministry of outreach). In 2014 the work of the team was largely accomplished by the efforts of: OUC’s Office Administrator, Jean Shaddick, and all who collaborate with her; Michelle Hanson (with Michael Parsche) working with our website, Facebook and Twitter; Rev. Glen and Rev. Molly as the primary communicators of this congregation’s message; and many other volunteers who change the church signs, fold bulletins, proofread publications, submit stories and announcements of our church’s life and ministry, and spread the word about the many good things that happen in our congregation.

Many have been looking for an organized group to address the larger communication issues. It is good to report that a designated ministry team was brought together during last fall and began meeting in January, 2015. Participants include Barb Sweazey (convener), Mark Sweazey, Ken Richardson, Larry Peckford, Rev. Molly Bell and Rev. Glen Stoudt. This is how they recently described what their team will focus on:

The purpose of OUC’s newly formed (2015) Communications Ministry Team is to thoughtfully reflect on, refine and unify the internal and external messages that depict OUC as a congregation. The Team will consider, recommend and guide improved communication approaches that will resonate with the OUC’s congregants, its neighbours and community partners, both in the short term and with consideration to the longer term.

The day-to-day communication activities of OUC will continue to be managed by the church office staff and other volunteers. The Communications Ministry Team will focus on the more strategic issue of shaping of the church’s messaging and delivery mechanisms.

If you have ideas about communications for our church, the team would appreciate hearing from you as it begins to shape OUC’s future communications strategy.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Sweazey, Rev. Glen Stoudt

Outreach

Encouraging each other to look beyond ourselves and our congregation through God's love, to recognize the needs of others, and to respond faithfully and generously. These Outreach ministries, reported below are: Outreach Committee; Mission and Service Fund; and Ottawa Presbytery.

The generosity of this congregation and the dedication of scores of volunteers have enabled OUC to continue extending the reach of its service to vulnerable and marginalized families and individuals. Our sincere desire to share justice and equality with others is at the heart of serving God's purpose in the world. We at OUC partner with God and each other to provide a "continuum of care" from neighbourhood ministries and programs, to global neighbours through the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

Community Partners

Centre 507, Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard (GEFC), Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre (OCCRC) and food cupboard, Eastern Ottawa Community Resource Centre (EOCRC), Helping With Furniture, Multi-faith Housing Initiative (MHI), Interchurch Refugee Group, Tucker House, Habitat for Humanity and we added the School Breakfast Program for Lent. The acronyms are how they refer to themselves.

Achievements within 2014

- Members of the team assisted Rev. Glen with an Outreach themed service on Sunday January 5, 2014
- Tri-weekly schedule of Minutes for Mission presented in the Sunday Worship Services
- Generous monthly donations of food to both the Gloucester and Orleans-Cumberland food cupboards. The Reverse Offerings on the last Sunday of the month with targeted donation items and posters have rejuvenated interest in the program. In addition to food items we also received a total of \$919 for the food cupboards in 2014
- The Lenten "Change for Change" collected pocket change focused on the Sunday School demographic and resulted in a donation of \$1,057.93 for the School Breakfast Program in Ottawa.
- On July 22nd, August 20th & November 14th the committee coordinated three hearty lunches to support the Habitat for Humanity "build" here in Orleans. We delivered the food & provided green, black & blue bins to remove compostable matter & recyclables.
- The Welcome Back BBQ was held Sept. 21st after the service. About 130 people were served in a wonderful social atmosphere. After expenses, we raised \$555.35 for M&S. Run as a "green" event there was some plastic garbage, s but most was diverted to a green bin.
- The update concerning the Congolese family who arrived in 2013 and the anticipated arrival of a new family is now covered within the Interchurch Refugee Group report.
- Volunteers helped accomplish pick-up and deliveries of used furniture & household goods in collaboration with Helping with Furniture as well as other smaller pick-ups and deliveries for OUC sponsored refugees.
- The group *A Joyful Yarn* has completed their second full year, having started in September 2012. They make blankets for *Helping With Furniture* and estimate that 45 blankets of various sizes were donated last year. As well as making original hand crafted blankets they became a conduit to *Helping With Furniture* for other donated bedding such as already made afgans, blankets, baby blankets and sets of sheets. There has also been some donated yarn.
- The Outreach Fair held after worship on October 19th required 13 tables to host our community partners. Many from the congregation enthusiastically took advantage of this valuable opportunity to meet representatives from our community partners and forge their own relationships. The team provided a light lunch.
- The congregation provided a terrific response in White Gift donations and personal care items, clothing and treats for clients of Centre 507
- Angel Tree - Christmas gifts to support 60 children known to the local Resource Centres, plus children of our refugee & congregation families
- During the events run by the Outreach Team this year we have demonstrated that it is possible to carry out food events that do not generate numerous bags of garbage, by planning to divert waste to Green,

Blue & Black bins and using the dishes from the kitchen, and the dishwasher. We commend this approach to all other groups.

- Donations totalling \$36,660 were contributed to the Mission & Service fund, including special Christmas Angel Tree gifts designated for 'Gifts with Vision' projects, donations at the September Barbeque and October Outreach fair
- The Green initiative has resulted in OUC joining the municipal pickup and the end of the garbage contract. Many thanks to everyone for their cooperation in changing our behaviour. A special shout-out goes to Sandra Sales for her determination to incorporate the necessary changes into the caretaker's daily practices.
- The Global Outreach fund has a remaining balance of \$1,230 designated to assist OUC youth participation in mission work.

Goals for 2015

1. Promote the Mission and Service Fund including World Development & Relief through focused fundraising and awareness-raising with the congregation. The goal for 2015 is \$37,000.
2. Continue to expand collaboration with and support for local emergency food cupboards and community resource centres, Centre 507, the Interchurch Refugee Group, Helping with Furniture, A Joyful Yarn, the Multi-faith Housing Initiative, Tucker House and Habitat for Humanity.
3. Support our youth with any involvement in Outreach activities they choose to embrace; such as exposure tours of the Food Cupboards / Resource Centres / Centre 507 / Mission / Multi-faith Housing activities, or even participate in a Canadian or foreign work mission trip.
4. Continue to cheerlead as OUC committees and rental groups adapt to the new "Green" church policy and plan activities that reduce the production of landfill-destined waste.

Committee Members

Joan & Chalid Brocklebank [Food Cupboards & A Joyful Yarn], Flora Crombie [Multi-faith Housing Initiative], Cindy Germain, Hari Gupta [Helping with Furniture], Sara Pichette [Angel Tree & Interchurch Refugee Group], Margaret Richardson [Interchurch Refugee Group], Alison Sales [A Joyful Yarn], Rev. Glen Stoudt, Pat Ulrich [Helping with Furniture & Interchurch Refugee Group], & Dave MacWilliam (chair)

Julia Elliott, Catherine Hodgins and Hari Gupta all moved on from the team this year. The Outreach team wishes to recognize each of them for their exceptional dedication & contributions while on this team. Furthermore we would like to thank the team and the scores of others who volunteer; for the blessing of their many hours of time and the enthusiastic help that they have so generously given to outreach activities. The support provided by Rev. Glen has continued to energize and enable this ministry to prosper throughout 2014.

Submitted in gratitude & humble trust,
David MacWilliam
Outreach Team Chair

The Interchurch Refugee Group

The Interchurch Refugee Group (IRG), a registered charity, is an ecumenical coalition of 5 East Ottawa churches – Orleans United Church, Annunciation of the Lord Roman Catholic Parish, Epiphany Anglican Church, Rothwell United Church, and Community Pentecostal Church. For 25 years, the IRG has been sponsoring government-approved refugee families, supporting their integration into Canadian society and facilitating their transition towards self-sufficiency.

2014 has been a year of exciting transition within the IRG. We had a commitment to the sponsorship of Bernard, Magrette and their four children, a family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for much of the year. Fortunately, Bernard not only achieved financial independence very early in the

sponsorship agreement, but he also had the support of extended family in the area. His family's reduced needs for settlement support allowed us to focus on a revitalization of the IRG.

We continued to provide Bernard's family limited financial assistance and stayed involved with them as they flourished. The three oldest children attended Camp Awesome at Orleans United in July. In October, a touching celebration was held to recognize the first anniversary of their arrival in Canada and their many successes. They were quick to volunteer to help with our next family.

At our AGM in April, Pat Ulrich was recognized for her hours of hard work and deeply felt passion for social justice as she stepped down after 10.5 years in the Chair's position. Margaret Richardson became the new Chair, while Sara Washburn-Pichette and Kristin Goff continued in their respective positions of Treasurer and Secretary. We were sorry to see our founder, Elizabeth Rapley, step down from the Steering Committee late in the year, but are delighted that her congregation, Annunciation of the Lord Roman Catholic Parish, is now sponsoring refugees on their own.

Working to raise the profile of the IRG and to attract new participants, we expanded our communications strategies by adding a slide presentation, a brochure, display posters, a scrapbook, and an e-mail address. Laura Weatherston, a graphic designer, created and donated a logo design, as well as letterhead and gift card designs.

To recognize World Refugee Day in June, individual refugee families participated in worship services at Epiphany Anglican, Rothwell United, and Orleans United Churches. The sharing of these families' personal stories was inspiring and humbling.

By the fall, buoyed by an influx of new volunteers, we were in a position to apply to sponsor a family of 5 from Burundi. Their arrival is imminent. To cap off the year, the Community Pentecostal Church of Orleans joined us in December. We extend our sincere appreciation to the congregation, who supports us so faithfully. We could not fulfill this aspect of OUC's Outreach Ministry without your help. For more information, please e-mail us at <mailto:interchurchrefugeegroup@gmail.com>, or contact one of our members: OUC: Pat Ulrich, Margaret Richardson, Sara Washburn-Pichette, Janet Weatherston, Ivan Fenton; Epiphany Anglican: Roy Moffett, Don Leek; Rothwell United: Brain Mansfield, Cameron Bowes; Navan-Vars United: Janet Nield; Community Pentecostal: Edmund Brainerd; Community rep: Kristin Goff; or Margaret Richardson, Chair

Margaret Richardson,
Chair, Interchurch Refugee Group

Mission and Service Fund

Congratulations to every member of the congregation who participated because the donations as of end December 2014 brought our total to \$36,660.00 which exceeded the \$36,500 goal. This was an increase of almost 4% over 2013.

The M&S Fund is this congregation's opportunity to participate in the broader Christian ministry beyond our local community of Orleans. The quarterly *Mandate* magazine has detailed information on how the M&S donations are distributed. Copies are available on the table in the Narthex and a copy of the 'Pie Chart' appears on the Outreach board in the Hall. The OUC goal for 2015 is nudged to \$37,000.

It is important to be aware that this congregation does not 'top up' the M&S Fund, from general revenues & offerings, to reach the annual goal. Consequentially, it is critical that if donors are intent on supporting the M&S Fund, *in addition to their regular support for OUC*, that they clearly designate the amount or percentage that they wish to donate to M&S;

- 1) on the front of their regular envelopes, or
- 2) use a separate M&S envelope found in the pews and Narthex, or
- 3) to the PAR (pre-authorized remittance) coordinator, Winston Babin.

For more information, please speak to members of the Outreach Team.

Submitted in gratitude & humble trust,
David MacWilliam
Outreach Team Chair

Ottawa Presbytery

Orleans United Church is a part of the Ottawa Presbytery having two clergy and four lay Presbytery representatives. The Presbytery provides a connection among its pastoral charges, some of which host a monthly meeting, including a dinner. The Presbytery meets September through May. Rev. Trish Elliott finished her term as chair in June 2014; taking over in September was David Lee with a theme of "Creating and Recreating in Community."

Of the nine meetings, two are program-based. OUC hosted a program meeting focussing on EDGE, networking through the church; the other was in retreat format and focussed on developing a 'spiritual toolkit.' In the other seven meetings, there were discussions and information sharing: remits from General Council 41 leading into GC 42 in Newfoundland in 2015; youth planned activities such as Rendezvous 2014 and Haida Gwaii exchange; General Council Comprehensive Review Working Group approach concerning, property, oversight of faith communities, oversight of ministry personnel, and connectional space; celebration of Faith in Worship ministry, members seeking discernment, retirement of ministers; looking at 'One Order of Ministry;' Montreal Ottawa Conference activities; and as always, budgets were approved for 2015 (assessments are done by Presbytery but are shared with Montreal Ottawa Conference; mission and service and outreach ministries givings are not included). In May, the Presbytery moved to its new Executive model which is similar to OUC's council format.

As always, the Presbytery youth, YAYA, was vigorous and enthusiastic in their doings – the exchange trip to Haida Gwaii, Rendezvous 2014, and Camp Awesome.

Further information about Ottawa Presbytery can be found at <http://www.uccanottawa.org>.

Respectfully submitted,
Marni Hunt Stephens

Resource Ministry

Striving to be as efficient, effective and environmentally sound as possible in managing our church's building, financial and human resources for God's work. These Resource ministries, reported below are: Ministry and Personnel; Future Directions; Property; Use and Occupancy; Finance; Fundraising; and Board of Trustees.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The mandate and duties of the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee at OUC as determined by the United Church Manual, policy and guidelines are primarily to provide consultative support for our staff, to review and make recommendations to Council on staff working conditions and remuneration and to oversee the relationships among our staff and between staff and the members and adherents of our congregation.

Craig Bater assumed the role of chair of this committee in June of 2014 with the transition of Dave Lawrence from M & P to Council member. Dave Lawrence dedicated a tremendous amount of time, care and skill to his leadership of this committee. OUC is very fortunate that he will continue to share his leadership with us from his position on Council.

The rest of the committee membership remained constant during 2014 although there have been a number of other changes in people's roles on the committee during the year. At the end of 2014 and hopefully for some time to come the committee members are: Ruth Fox as the liaison for Rev. Molly, Gary Boyd as liaison for Rev. Glen, Peter Holt as liaison for our Music Director Scott Richardson, Brenda Sutherland as liaison for our Office Administrator Jean Shaddick, and Pamela Eisener-Parsche as a member-at-large.

2014 was a busy year for the committee with Rev. Molly's sabbatical, Rev. Glen's surgery, Rev. Glen and Jean Shaddick announcing their retirement plans and the national church announcing a restructuring of our church's Ministerial Compensation model. The committee reviewed and approved Rev. Molly's plan for her sabbatical leave in the spring and summer of 2014 as well as her post sabbatical report. We celebrated Jean Shaddick's 25 years of working at and for OUC. We welcomed Kim Gratton and Darlene Corcoran as interim Office Administrators during Jean's leaves in the winter and again in October 2014, and secured Kim's services for the winter of 2015. We also recognized that the generous advance retirement notice given us by Rev. Glen and Jean present M & P and OUC with an opportunity to update, improve and/or develop OUC's staff compensation policies and to do some proactive succession planning. We started this process in 2014 and expect that these matters will continue to be M&P's focus in 2015.

On behalf of the committee, I want to thank each and all of our staff members for the phenomenal and constant dedication and commitment that each of them have made to the life and work of OUC and to each of us blessed by their service.

Craig Bater
Chair of Ministry and Personnel

Property

The OUC Property Committee and its sub-committee, Use and Occupancy, are responsible for the maintenance and use of the church building, equipment, grounds and security.

OUC is a busy space where church activities and community activities coexist. Our OUC congregation uses the building for church services, celebrations, meetings, recreation and programs. The wider community uses the space as a community centre, running fitness classes, scouts, music groups, meetings, and interest groups. A congregation of Seventh Day Adventists and St. Christopher's Daycare are long-time renters as well. The number of users is up this year. While the additional income is welcome, storage space to support church and community programs is being used to capacity and needs to be re-examined. OUC is a vibrant place with much activity on a Sunday and for much of the rest of the week. Hence the desire to maintain it as a beautiful, welcoming centre. To this end, the corridor past the washrooms was freshly painted in the fall, the ceiling in the library was repaired after water damage in the spring, lighting continues to be replaced with energy efficient fixtures, and a joint fundraising effort between Care and Support and Property resulted in 150 new chairs for meeting rooms and seating in the hall.

Operating costs consume about one quarter of the annual Church budget. They include utilities, contracted maintenance services (such as heating and custodial), supplies, equipment, insurance, the security system, fire alarm system, snow clearing and garbage collection. On an ongoing basis, upgrades are installed when funds permit. Early in 2015 the fire alarm panel will be replaced. For many of the other things that come up, thanks are due to our volunteers who are ready and willing to offer their time and expertise in a crisis and especially in day to day maintenance. In the summer of 2014 many volunteers came out to cut the lawns and clean up the perimeters of the property, trimming vines and scrub growth off the fences, and cutting down dead ash and maple trees. A green initiative has been adopted, involving reduction in the amount of garbage we produce.

As our church building ages, though, large additional expenses are looming. Council is contemplating the tremendous cost of removing the tower on the front of the church. We are aware that in the not too distant future, furnace number four will need to be replaced. We are looking at replacing the flooring in the sanctuary. In the search for ways to cut costs, we are being very careful of garbage generation, allowing us to move to city pickup of our garbage and recycling, at a considerable savings to OUC.

If you have questions about the operation of OUC please consult the following list of committee members:

Winston Babin - Contracts
Rhys Williams - Insurance
George Teather – Finance and Landscaping
Shirley Holt - Gardens
Dave Patterson and David Clemis - Communications and Sound
Rob Orchin – Special Projects
David Humenuk – Maintenance
Richard Shaddick – Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
Richard Davis – Use & Occupancy

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Sales

Finance

The mandate of the ***Finance Committee*** is to oversee and manage the financial affairs of OUC in a responsible manner, to provide assurance that finances are managed in the best interests of the congregation and in keeping with the objectives of the church as determined by the congregation and Council. To achieve this mandate, the Finance Committee will:

- Prepare an annual budget for review by Council and approval by the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM);
- Oversee the counting and deposit of Sunday offerings in an approved bank account;
- Administer the disbursement of funds in accordance with the approved budget and policies of Orleans United Church;
- Maintain a record of all receipts and disbursements;
- Manage the church mortgage and other debts;
- Oversee and manage the investment of funds;
- Present to Council monthly financial statements;
- Issue tax receipts to all donors at year-end;
- Present a financial report of the receipts and disbursements for the previous year to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting; and
- Co-ordinate with other Church committees to obtain sufficient financial contributions for the effective operation of our church and maintaining liaison with other committees as appropriate.

Acknowledgements: The Finance Committee would like to give special thanks to Alex Mirhady who has the very demanding role of Bookkeeper. We would also like to recognize the hard work of Donna Pinke, who looks after Accounts Payable; the contributions of Winston Babin, who has the combined role of PAR and Envelope Steward; Joan Brockelbank who is the committee secretary; Chalid Brockelbank who is the Counting Coordinator; Dianne Davis who is responsible for Food Vouchers; and Bernie Eisener, who provides sage advice, bringing a wealth of experience in financial administration. All these positions bear significant responsibilities and take considerable time; to all a very big THANKS!

2014 Financial Results: Offerings, including special offerings for new chairs, were \$300,095, about 1.7% higher than in 2014. As a result of increased use of the hall by outside groups, rental income was \$13,850 above budget. Primarily as a result of very successful spring and fall bazaars, fund raising was also higher by \$5,209. As a result, total regular operating revenues were \$413,224, well above the budgeted amount of \$393,909. Total operating expenditures were \$391,306. The increased rental and fundraising revenues, together with actual expenditures slightly under budget, resulted in an operational surplus of \$10,187, compared to a planned budget deficit of \$14,763.

Our long term financial position remains challenging. Royal Bank mortgage payments were the only payments made towards debt reduction. There are about six years left on this mortgage. Long term debt includes the \$100,000 McKendry Fund and the \$116,700 Church Extension loan, on which interest-only payments are made. The increased cost of maintenance and major expenditures due to the age of our building continue to be a challenge.

As a result of the contributions of the congregation and the efforts of the Outreach Committee, Mission and Service donations were \$36,660, about 4% more than the \$35,278 raised in 2013, .

Offerings from the congregation are the major source of revenue for our church, amounting to 74% of the total. We extend our thanks for your continued financial support which, together with all the volunteer activities, allows OUC to continue to work towards fulfilling Christ's mission here in Orleans and the wider community.

Respectfully submitted,
George Teather

Fundraising

Throughout 2014, a variety of fundraising activities were organized and generously supported by OUC members and the extended community. All of the funds raised help support the various Ministries of OUC. The fundraising activities held this year included major events such as the annual Christmas Bazaar, and a chair replacement campaign as well as a number of more modest, but well-loved activities. Food-related fundraising activities continue to be popular and this year included: roast beef dinner, progressive dinner, Presbytery dinner, pancake breakfast, berry sales, Sundae Sunday, bake sales, soup lunches and the International Tea. Some new fundraising activities were introduced including the spring Home and Garden Show and the fall Music in the Vineyard event. We are thankful to all of the volunteers who were involved in these various events.

The table below provides an overview of all OUC fundraising activities throughout 2014. It includes the activities where the funds augment the OUC general accounts and are allocated as needed through the budget process. The table also identifies fundraisers held in support of specific initiatives such as the replacement of chairs, Change for Change Lenten campaign, and the Youth Stewardship campaign.

Dianne Davis / Jan Weatherston
Fundraising Committee chair / Bazaars Committee chair

When	Activity	Funds Support	Amount Raised
Year	Gift Card sales - Grocery	OUC general accounts	\$5625
Round	Boston Pizza receipts – 10% rebate		\$533
	Rona – 5% rebate on purchases		\$363
	January		Frozen Berry sales
February	Progressive Dinner		\$1080
April	Dig It Gloves sales		
	Easter Bake Sale – Palm Sunday	General accounts	\$511
	Pancake Breakfast – Easter Sunday	General accounts	\$211
	Change for Change	Lenten Collection for Schools	\$1057
	Junk Collection Day	Youth Stewardship Campaign	\$128
May	Seniors Tea & Resource Fair	Care and Support Team	\$600
	Home and Garden Show	OUC general accounts	\$2,500
	Sundae Sunday	OUC Benevolent Fund	(Free will)
September	Welcome Back BBQ	Mission and Service Fund	(Free will)
	Music in the Vineyard	General accounts	\$845
	International Women's Tea	General accounts	\$770
October	Ladies Fall Fashion Show	General accounts	\$915
November	Giving Thanks Roast Beef Dinner	General accounts	\$1,500
	Christmas Market Bazaar		\$16,029
December	Chair Replacement campaign – including Soup for A Seat lunch & Tables	Chair Replacement Campaign	\$7000

Revenue Stability Task Force

The Revenue Stability Task Force was endorsed by OUC Executive Committee as follows:

1. Review the current sources of revenue of OUC, and look for ways of increasing those revenues
2. Determine new sources of revenue for OUC
3. Develop a plan, and select champions to implement/increase revenue sources
4. Develop an accounting model that allows us to track where we are on a monthly basis for each revenue stream. (This is needed because some revenue streams vary from month to month)
5. Prepare a model for long term stability and operations

During 2014 we conducted the following activities:

1. Formed Task Force
2. Performed some financial analysis – Envelopes/PAR offerings, anonymous analysis, demographics
3. Conducted an environmental scan by surveying congregations of similar configuration (e.g. Kanata, Rideau Park, Parkdale, and Barrhaven) and reviewed their financial model, long term and capital planning models and some of their Ministries.
4. Congregation Conversation (Letter, Message and Brainstorming Session)
5. Reviewed and reported on any risks associated with our current and future financial situation
6. Engaged the congregation by letter and message delivered on Sunday mornings.
7. We established the following congregational challenges: 5% Challenge, FUNdraising, Use and Occupancy
8. We also hosted a Legacy Giving and Financial and Estate Planning seminar
9. We made a series of 25 recommendations to Council in December 2014

Council is still considering some of our recommendations, and we will table some of our recommendations at the Annual Congregational meeting in February.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Parsche, Chair, Revenue Stability Task Force

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees hold the legal title to all of the property of the church, real and personal, in trust for the congregation.

In 2014 the members of your Board of Trustees were Cheryl Holden, David Patterson, Nancy Birchard, Gary Boyd and Craig Bater.

In the United Church of Canada the Trustees act in the name of the congregation in matters of legal formality such as on our title deed and mortgages; and review matters of long term financial or property importance, such as new long term financing proposals and permanent alterations to our church building. At OUC we are also responsible for the recording and administration of our memorial and celebration fund.

A majority of the Trustees must be members of the United Church and each must be appointed by the congregation. Trustees are usually long-time members of the congregation.

The Trustees are to ensure that adequate insurance and inventory of congregational property, contents and equipment is maintained by the Congregation and to make recommendations as to the use and care of the buildings and grounds. We review these matters with the Property committee.

The Board of Trustees is a committee of Council. It meets only as needed and reports to Council, the Annual General Meeting, and to the Ministers upon request. There were no material requests made to or reports given by the Trustees as a committee in 2014.

The Trustees hold and invest the Memorial & Celebration fund and make recommendations to Council regarding the use of the gifts to this fund. There were no material deposits or disbursements from this fund during the year.

Craig Bater
Chair of Trustees

Future Directions

The Future Directions Ministry Team, established in April 2011, came to the end of its mandate with the adoption of the new "Branch Model" Council Structure in June of 2014. The team was tasked with assisting OUC in making this transition between governance models. To this end, the team supported the clergy in the recruitment and training of the new Council members.

In the spring of 2014, the Future Direction's team:

- Served as a Nominations/Discernment Team recruiting nominees for the 6 Members-At-Large;
- Prepared and conducted an orientation program for Members-At-Large;
- Refined details of the model (in conjunction with Council) to ensure it was fully realized;
- Communicated and interacted with the Congregation concerning questions and suggestions about the model.

As the newly elected Council assumed leadership of the congregation, the Future Directions team was able to see how their years of visioning and planning were realized. And so with deep gratitude for the work and witness that were shared by this team of committed and wise members, their mandate was realized and the Team was disbanded.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Molly Bell

for the Future Directions Ministry Team: Gary Boyd, Karen Dodds, Pam Eisener, Heather McGrath, Don Mumby, Jill Parkinson, Michael Parsche, Rev. Molly Bell, Rev. Glen Stoudt.