



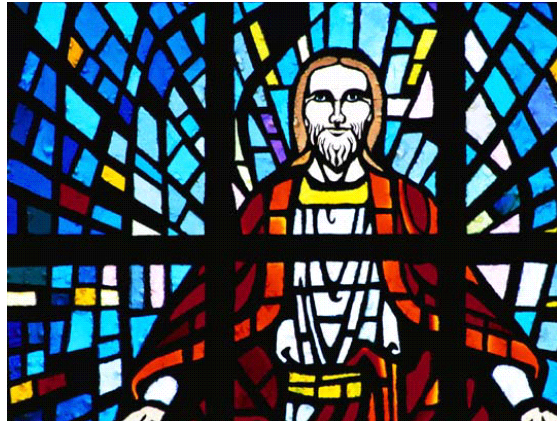
Rideau Park United Church 2012 Annual Report

2203 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 7L9

613-733-3156
rideaupark.ca

"Christ Commissioning His Disciples"
To the GLORY of God and in Loving Memory
of Flora and Doctor, The Reverend Ott McKennitt

In Memoriam



Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park

Cecil Armstrong	Jacqueline Berrow
Ruby Catherine Blair	Roland Brenning
Olive Burton	Hazel Eileen Carmichael
Beatrice Elizabeth Christie	Elizabeth "Betty" Cole
Frances "Evelyn" Cooper	Margaret McKenzie Davidson
Mary Dunsmore	Ian Bain Flann
Anna Mavis Floyd	William Myron Harasym
Jean Marion Holliday	Lillian Louise Jones
Rhoda Mary Law	Elinor Leach
Louise Isabelle Laidlaw Long	Alfred George Long
Margaret Mary Marsh	Gloria Mildred McIntosh
Rev. Dr. James Andrew Ottwell (Ott) McKennitt	Joan Ann Nolan
Orla Raymond Presley	Margaret Jean Tapp
Ronald Ernest Thomas	Wayne Alexander Charles Turner
Mary Wilson	James Leslie Wolfe

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 25, 26

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STAFF

Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald	Minister of Pastoral Care
Richard Glasser	Director of Music
Debi Brown	Administrator
Kay Saunders (Maternity Leave)	Administrative Assistant (Apr. - Oct.)
Judy Paré (Part Time)	Administrative Assistant (Oct. - Dec.)
Sonya Sweeney (Part Time)	Administrative Assistant (Oct. - Dec.)
Paul Sorg	Caretaker
Steve Spidell (Part Time)	Caretaker (Nov.—Dec.)

COUNCIL

Wayne Bond	Chair
Mary Lynne Holton	Vice-chair
Lisa Sadler	Secretary
Doug Robinson	Chair of Session
Karen Humphries	Session Representative
Maureen Stark	Session Representative
Gaveen Cadotte	Chair of Stewards (on leave)
Rod Hagglund	Chair of Stewards (until Dec. 2013)
Bob Roden	Treasurer, Stewards' Representative
Tony Bernard	Stewards' Representative (to Sept. 2012)
Brian Hamilton	Chair of Stewardship
Doreen Hamilton	Chair of Ministry and Personnel
Karen Lamb	Ottawa Presbytery Representative
Gavin Currie	Chair of Board of Trustees
Beverly Lee	President of United Church Women
Nancy McPherson	Chair of Administrative
Drew Presley	Member at Large
Greig Scott	Member at Large

COMMITTEES**SESSION**

Doug Robinson	Chair
Brian Neal	Clerk (until summer 2012)
replaced by Nancy McPherson	Clerk (from fall 2012)

Sub-committees of Session

Christian Development	Elizabeth Acquah	Chair
Worship and Music	Shailja Verma, Kate Whitridge	Co-chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Sandra Weedmark	Chair
Pastoral Care	Alyce Dunnewold	Chair

STEWARDS

Gaveen Cadotte	Chair (Jan. - Oct.; on leave until Dec. 2013)
replaced by Rod Hagglund	Chair (until Dec. 2013)

Sub-committees of Stewards

Treasurer	Bob Roden
Property	Rod Hagglund
Counting Teams	Andrew Jeffrey
Property Renewal	Brian Hamilton

STEWARDSHIP**NOMINATIONS****MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL****ADMINISTRATIVE****BOARD OF TRUSTEES****UNITED CHURCH WOMEN****PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES****ENVELOPE SECRETARY**

Brian Hamilton	Chair
Judy Paré	Chair
Doreen Hamilton	Chair
Nancy McPherson	Chair
Gavin Currie	Chair
Beverly Lee	President
Brian Irvine	Karen Lamb
Don Melick	Chris Inrig
Barbara Jeffrey	

Baptisms

Evangeline Hazel Fayola Belo	Alexander James Blake
Wolf Stephen Clarin Caceres	Geoffrey Stewart Faure
Percy Eric William Fowkes	Anna Taylor Jee
Carson Allan Kane	Phoebe Abigal Karssing
Alexander Jarvis Kurz	Victoria Diaz Lamothe
Derek Gilbert Lagace	Tyler Alfred Lagace
Kayla Diaz Lamothe	Cameron Lockhart
Adriana Alina Smith-Minnillie	Katherine Laurie Anne Shaver
Rebecca Frances Shaver	Luke John Andrew Smith
Bethany Mary Leigh Stevenson	Julie Laura Anne Stevenson
Jessica Diana Tereschuk	

Confirmations

Laura Blackmore	David Claxton
Katherine Clifton	Jeremy Davis
Bryan Detchou	Brent Jackson
Kaitie Jourdeuil	Kevin Nesdoly
Emma Presley	Laura Presley
Devon Shulist	Rigel Shulist
Joe Simpson	

Transfers to Rideau Park

Ginette Crew
Marilou Reeve
Miriam and Daniel Sherwin
Robert and Bernice Rennie

Rideau Park United Church is a family of people who joyfully proclaim a loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

As caring members of this church, we seek to do this by:

- ✚ joining together in worship, prayer and music;*
- ✚ reading and studying the Bible;*
- ✚ living a Christian life;*
- ✚ nurturing both young and old in Christian education programs;*
- ✚ seeking justice for everyone; and*
- ✚ continually sharing our faith, hope, talents and resources with our community, country and the world.*

Arnold Barry

Arline Brackenridge

Betty Cole

Mr. & Mrs. Gates and family

William (Bill) Harasym

Jean Marion Holliday

Al Long

Margaret Marsh

Harris and Mary Mossman

Orla (Ray) Presley

Debra Becker

Bea Christie

Mary Dohoo

Mr. & Mrs. Gibson and Family

Susan Hebb

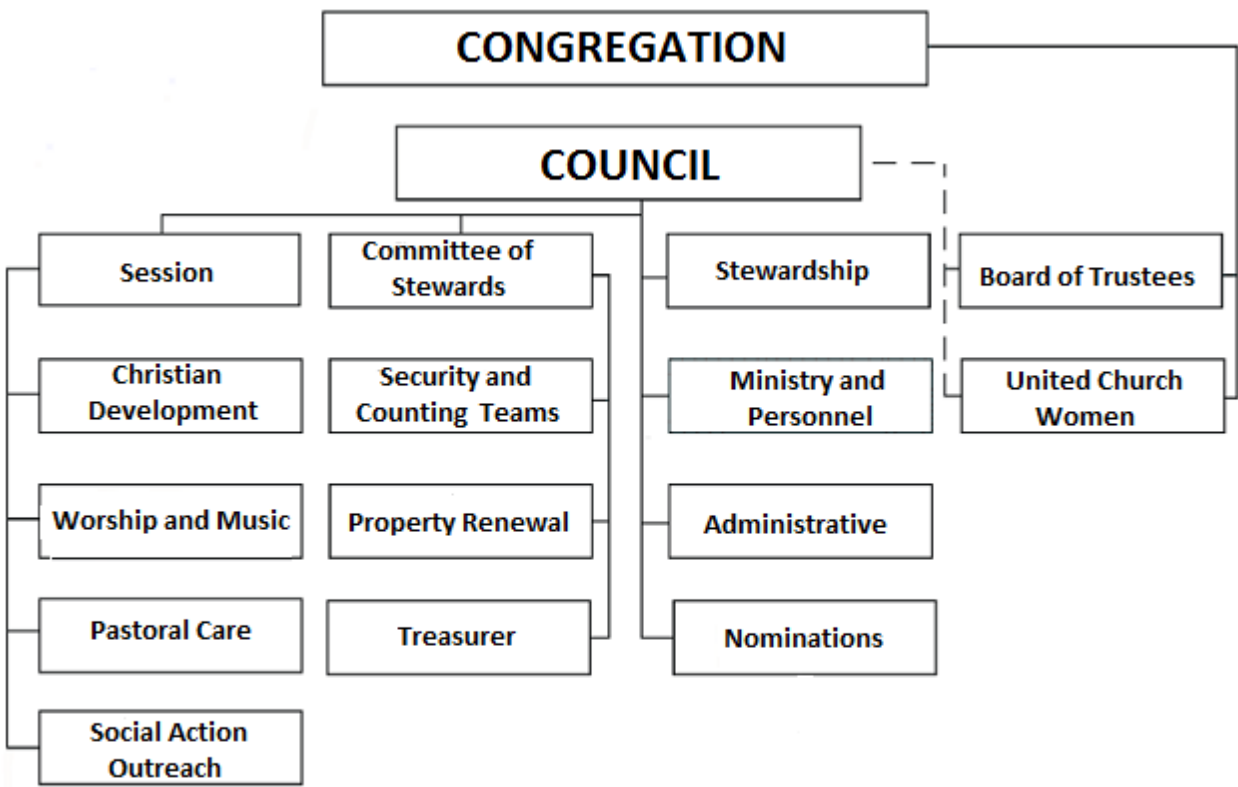
Rhoda Mary Law

Louise Laidlaw Long

Rev. Dr. Ott McKennitt

Gerald Palmer

George Schaef



Rideau Park United Church STATISTICS 2012

Number of households as of December 31, 2011.....	520
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2011.....	1,178
Members received through Transfer of Certificate	6
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate	0
Persons removed by death.....	22
Number of weddings.....	11
Number of funerals	22

I think if you were time travelling back to January 2012, the New Year's resolutions for the staff at Rideau Park would have been to transition with a new person in the front office and then get on with business as usual. Little did we know that 2012 would be a year with some unanticipated transitions.

We were very pleased to welcome Kay Saunders to our staff as the new administrative assistant at the end of March. However, the transition would not have gone as smoothly if it were not for the volunteer support of church members from December 2011 to March 2012, particularly Doreen and Brian Hamilton. We are in their debt for the many hours of support they gave us, as staff and congregation. Kay brings to our staff lots of youthful energy and warmth, and we look forward to having her back after her maternity leave. Thanks to Judy Paré and Sonya Sweeney for staffing this temporary position so seamlessly.

Our office staff has been hard at work trying to raise rental incomes by welcoming new groups to the building, and their efforts have paid off. This has meant lots of new faces around the building, and we are very pleased to have so many community members making use of our facilities. Thanks to the conscientious care of both staff and volunteers, the building is in wonderful condition and a welcoming space for everyone who enters. As staff, we are learning not to take space at the church for granted!

Paul Sorg took an unexpected medical leave in October 2012, but we hope to have him back to work early in 2013. In the meantime, the staff has been happy to get to know Steve Spidell, who has been filling in on a part-time contract. Our administrator, Debi Brown, has carried most of the staff responsibility for ensuring life goes on as usual in Paul's absence, so we are in her debt as well.

The year ahead will also bring with it both challenges and new opportunities:

Steve Clifton is planning to take a sabbatical from June to September 2013. Hearing about his travels to Ireland and the United Kingdom in the spring of 2012 was wonderful for everyone on staff, so we hope to be renewed by his sabbatical as well.

In October we also received notice from our Music Director, Richard Glasser that he is planning to retire May 1, 2013 – so it looks like we will have more transitions in 2013. We are happy to celebrate with Richard this new chapter in his life and ministry, but will miss his contributions to the community, staff and the life of the congregation.

If it were not for the faith, generosity and love of the congregation at Rideau Park, our work as staff would not be possible and these transitions would have been impossible! Thanks to everyone for your faith, and your faith in us.

Elizabeth Richard Steve Georgina
Paal Debi Kay
Sonya Judy Steve

Council has met six times since the last report. The Council membership is as follows:

Chair	Wayne Bond
Vice-Chair	Mary Lynne Holton
Secretary	Lisa Sadler
Chair of Session	Doug Robinson
Session Representatives	Karen Humphries
	Maureen Stark
Chair of Stewards	Gaveen Gadotte (Leave Oct. 1, 2012)
	Rod Hagglund (Interim Chair Oct 1, 2012)
Stewards' Representatives	Bob Roden (Treasurer)
	Tony Bernard (To Sept. 4, 2012)
Chair of Stewardship	Brian Hamilton
Chair of Ministry and Personnel	Doreen Hamilton
Ottawa Presbytery Representative	Karen Lamb
Chair of Trustees	Gavin Currie
President of UCW	Beverly Lee
Chair of Administrative Committee	Nancy McPherson
Members at Large	Greig Scott
	Drew Presley

The Ministers and the Church Administrator are ex-officio, non-voting members.

According to our Constitution, Council is responsible for exercising leadership and management at a strategic level. The leadership function encompasses long range planning and defining congregational priorities, while the management function provides strategic guidance for the volunteer bodies, committees and church staff responsible for church ministries, programs and activities.

With respect to the longer term, Council and Stewards, in 2011/2012, committed to reducing the small, but chronic and growing, year-end deficits in the Ministry and Programs (M&P) Fund. It is through this Fund that we support our church staff and our many volunteers to provide local ministry, worship, music, pastoral care, outreach, Christian education, and the many programs and activities which help us to serve God, each other, and our community.

Based on consultations with the congregation through a survey and Town Hall meetings, and a retreat to review the input, Council and Stewards developed a deficit reduction plan for the M&P Fund to be implemented on a multi-year basis, which involved new revenue generating initiatives, expenditure reduction actions, changes to the Stewardship Campaign, and keeping the congregation informed. Examples of these initiatives for 2012 include:

- Increasing revenues through fund-raisers, with portions directed to the M&P Fund and the Property Renewal Fund. Initiatives in 2012 included five church dinners, the 60th Anniversary Cookbook, the RPUC Café, the fruit stand, and stronger promotion of church facility rentals;
- Reducing expenditures through actions such as individual Observer subscriptions, and Christmas Cheer coordination by church staff;
- Focusing the message in the Stewardship Campaign more towards the needs of the Ministry and Programs Fund, and providing the option of giving to "the Area of Greatest Need";
- Holding an annual budget consultation at the Fall Congregational Meeting in November;

- Placing more emphasis on communications, congregational development and welcoming to increase our presence in the community and attract new members.

These various initiatives came into full effect in 2012 with tangible results. The Ministry and Programs (M&P) Fund recorded a modest surplus in 2012 for the first time in 4 years, with the continued help of income from the Britt Fund and a generous contribution from the UCW. Unlike recent years, however, no money had to be transferred from the Reserve Fund to help reduce the deficit. The challenge going forward will be to continue to balance the annual M&P budget, and to build and maintain a modest contingency amount in the M&P Fund.

To emphasize the importance of the strategic overview function of Council, an agenda item, "Council Discussion," was continued at most Council meetings. Topics covered were: Rideau Park's ministries, programs and governance for the Presbytery Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee (February); Congregational Development: New Directions, Next Steps (April); the Stewardship Campaign (June); Rideau Park's Mission Statement: How do we Implement it? Live it? (September); and a finance/budget consultation (November).

In March, Council members and other volunteers hosted an Ottawa Presbytery meeting and dinner at Rideau Park for approximately 110 Presbytery representatives. A special vote of thanks is extended to Lisa Sadler and her helpers for preparing and serving the dinner.

In the spring, on behalf of the congregation, Council received a request from Presbytery for volunteers to assist at the UCC General Council 41, held August 11-18 in Ottawa. In response to the request and publicity, Rideau Park provided 28 volunteers, the most in the Ottawa Presbytery, who undertook welcoming, set-up, registration, information officers, serving at breaks, transportation, and cookie baking. Many thanks to all of the volunteers, and especially to Judy Paré and Barry Dewis for their coordination of volunteer recruitment and Brian and Doreen Hamilton who Co-chaired the Welcoming team for the General Council Local Arrangements Committee.

In November, Council discussed and approved revisions to the Foundation Fund documents, including the Guidelines for Operation, Guidelines for Applying for Funds, the Evaluation Criteria, and the Letter of Application. The amended documents were recommended by the Trustees to clarify and simplify the application and evaluation processes, and ensure that funds can be provided for projects in a timely manner. See the RPUC website.

In 2012, \$10,070 was available from the Rideau Park Foundation Fund for projects within the congregation as well as outreach projects. Five applications were received and one statement of intent to apply. In June, Council approved \$1,000 to support development of a new RPUC website and payment for the web provider for 18 months, and \$5,000 towards provision of audiovisual facilities in the Sanctuary. In November, Council approved \$866 to support Social Action and Outreach in the purchase and servicing of a computer for the Blair Court Community House; and \$2,000 towards holding a LGBT Safe Space workshop at Rideau Park in spring 2013 as a Presbytery-wide event. Council has also received a funding application from Faith and Arts Ottawa, a ministry of the Ottawa Presbytery, to assist with the "God Dialogues" theatre project. This request will be considered at the January 2013 meeting.

The Rideau Park Policy for Naming Rooms at the church has been updated.

In the fall, Council considered a background paper regarding the serving of alcohol at selected events within Rideau Park such as church dinners and wedding receptions, on a trial basis. Given the interest and support shown at the Fall Congregational Meeting, Council appointed a three-member team comprising Brian Hamilton, Steve Shipley and Mabel Bannerman to draft a detailed proposal for consideration by Stewards and Council, and for decision at the February 2013 Congregational Meeting. To assist with the proposal, the congregation was asked to share their views on the initiative with the ministers by mid January.

Our church staff is changing. In March, Council approved the hiring of our new Administrative Assistant, Kay Saunders (currently on maternity leave). In November, Council approved the establishment of a Search Committee to select a new Director of Music for Rideau Park, given the upcoming, well-deserved, retirement of our current Music Director, Richard Glasser.

On behalf of the congregation, Council recognized the extraordinary contribution of Doreen and Brian Hamilton in performing as volunteers the full-time administrative assistant duties at Rideau Park for four months while the search process was undertaken. This recognition took place during a church service in mid April.

Throughout 2012, Council continued to encourage the work of its Communications Team and its Congregational Development Team in their efforts to increase awareness in the local community about Rideau Park church services, programs and events.

Council continues the practice of recognizing the spiritual aspects of our activities and trying to ensure that they are kept in focus as we go about our business. This is accomplished in part by having different members of Council lead the opening reflection at Council meetings. In October, six Council members and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce attended the Christianity After Religion Symposium held in Ottawa and shared their reflections at the next Council meeting.

I would like to thank members of Council for their support during the past two years, and also give a special word of appreciation to those members who are leaving Council, or changing their responsibilities: Doug Robinson, Karen Humphries, Doreen Hamilton, Karen Lamb, Greig Scott, Tony Bernard and Beverly Lee, for their contribution to the work of Council.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank our church staff for all they do to make this congregation such an active, caring and spiritual place. We are indeed blessed to have such an experienced, committed and creative group of people. Best wishes are also extended to Paul Sorg, our custodian of 38 years, for a continuing and complete recovery. And, I would like to give a special vote of thanks to our Music Director, Richard Glasser, who will be retiring this spring, for his ten years of music ministry at Rideau Park during which he has directed our music program with initiative, imagination and in an inclusive way.

Finally, I would like to thank the congregation for providing me with the opportunity to serve as the Chair of Council. It has been a busy, but personally rewarding two years that I have very much enjoyed. The support and advice throughout, from our dedicated staff, Council members, and many other volunteers from the congregation, has been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Bond, Chair

Urban Holmes defines spirituality as a longing or emptiness that we feel within. Our own spiritual path is shaped by the ways in which we try to fill the void or in how we work to meet our longing. Our own spiritual work is found in what we do to connect to God.

Spirituality is a strong and vibrant thread that is woven through all that we do at Rideau Park. From Youth Bible Study to our outreach work, from choir practice to committee meetings, we are always seeking to be in communion with the Holy One and to help others find that which will satisfy their souls and nourish their spirits.

In 2012 there were a number of events and activities that were directed at deepening the spiritual life that we share. Elizabeth led a number of book studies including one on the book: *The Hell Jesus Never Intended* in the fall. A spirituality retreat was held in the fall; about 10 adults gathered at Galilee in Arnprior for a time of fellowship, reflection and renewal. In the fall again, Sharon Sanderson offered another in a series of quiet days, a chance to retreat on a Saturday in our own church. Sharon, with Elizabeth's help, has also begun offering monthly Contemplative Eucharist services on Sunday afternoons; these services have been very well received.

Our weekly lectionary study, held every Wednesday morning, is a small gathering but the time is rich. Regular participant Bas Groeneweg has written this:

Available only on Wednesdays
Nine thirty to eleven in the forenoon
Friendly, wide open, free for all discussions.
Of four interesting scripture readings.
Always led by one of our very own clergy
Providing trained, educated, intelligent, informed leadership
Always willing, helpful, cheerful, enthusiastic, capable, very well prepared
And all that.
Goliath was a good guy.
So was Judas Iscariot.
Let's talk about it.
We regularly explore challenging questions
We always search for reasonable or acceptable or understandable
Or coherent or intelligent or believable or suitable answers

(If you would like to know more about the Wednesday morning group speak to Bas or just come to the Parlour at 9:30 am.)

In cooperation with *Faith and Arts Ottawa*, we hosted a few events including a workshop led by Ray McGinnis: *Write to the Heart*, on writing sacred psalms and poetry.

Annually in the season of Lent we try to place a special emphasis on spiritual growth. Meetings are cancelled in order to make room for God. A group gathers on Saturday morning to share food, fellowship and study; this year's book was Philip Newell's *Christ of the Celts*. On Wednesday nights we meet for midweek services and then have a study session. The theme in 2012 was "Creation" and we are grateful to Marilyn Law who arranged a great series of speakers on the issue of Climate Change. Our Labyrinth is also made available in each week of Lent. The Spirituality group had its annual Lenten project which this year was the creation of a *Prayers of Creation* prayer guide.

In order to foster good relations with our ecumenical neighbours and to create space for interfaith dialogue, Rideau Park has hosted a series of speakers from other faith traditions. In Lent 2012 we welcomed Fr. Shenouda Doss Boutros, Priest of St. Mary Coptic Church of Ottawa, who shared the story of their ancient faith tradition and of the current events in Egypt. Thank you to Bas Groeneweg for making the arrangements for these events.

In 2012 we created a space for a weekly meditation group, which now meets between services, at 10:45 am each Sunday. Anyone who would like to try mediation is welcome to join in anytime.

It is worth noting that all of our studies go online. If a session is missed or if someone cannot get out to participate, all of our Bible, book and topical studies have a written component posted on or linked to on our church website. The Meditation course is available on line as well. It's almost like being there.

We also have a congregational prayer chain. The prayer chain is a place to bring concerns in confidence so that others in our faith community can pray for us and those we love. If you would like to join the chain, please speak to our coordinator, Doreen Hamilton.

We have plans for some new initiatives in 2013. We look forward to another year of growing in the spirit.

Blessings,
Reverend Steve Clifton

The Communications Team's goal is to improve communications within the church and the wider community. The team delivers and facilitates a broader, more organized, approach to communications and advertising to Rideau Park United Church. It provides support, guidance and coordination that helps to fill in any gaps in communication.

Members of the Communications Team include: Marcia Gosse (editor, Churchpost); Barry Dewis (advertisements for Vistas); Nancy McPherson (Chair, Administrative); Marilyn Law, (past Chair of Council); Wayne Bond (Chair of Council); Debi Brown (Administrator); Rev. Elizabeth Bryce; Kay Saunders and Judy Paré (Administrative Assistants); and Mary Lynne Holton (Chair of the Communications Team).

A **Rideau Park Website Sub-Committee** was established to develop a new church website with an updated, more contemporary, look and feel, and utilize a user-friendly web host. The sub-committee membership was: Wayne Bond, Nancy McPherson, Elizabeth Bryce, Mary Lynne Holton, as well as volunteers, Marjorie Melick and Paul Faure. A \$1,000 Rideau Park Foundation Grant was approved to cover the startup costs of the initiative.

After many months of studying, planning, meetings, emails, reviewing and much hard work, the new RP website was launched in early January 2013. The new website allows for regular maintenance and updating by church staff and others who have received the requisite training. This should provide greater flexibility and administrative efficiency.

A very big thank you goes to Marjorie Melick and Paul Faure for their expertise and many hours of commitment to the development of the new website. Thanks also to the members of the Website Sub-committee, church staff, the Communications Team, Kyle Merrithew, John Scollick and Don Ford for their helpful suggestions and positive input.

In 2012, the Communications Team worked on the following activities:

- The weekly advertisement in the EMC Church Directory and the monthly advertisement in the Vistas continued throughout the year.
- Throughout 2012, the team continued to identify key events and to advertise to the wider community in the Citizen, "Our Town," EMC, "What's On This Week," Vistas Community Calendar, and News and Events on the RP website.
- The congregation received monthly emails informing them of upcoming events and services.
- To facilitate communication, they provided committee chairs and event leaders with a Communicators Checklist, and an updated Print and Electronic Media Contact List.
- A Welcome Brochure and card with contact information continues to be distributed to newcomers at church services,
- An addendum, 2012-Website Practices Guidelines was developed to help administrative staff with the updating of website content.
- Short tributes of loved ones, written by family members, to be included in Churchpost if they so wish and names of recently deceased added in the monthly congregational email.

Priorities for 2013 are: 1) A review of the new website by the end of 2013. 2) Establish a small group of writers to draft articles and take photos for church events and services. 3) Update the written protocol with content and technical guidelines for the Rideau Park Website.

Again, I would like to express sincere thanks to everyone involved in the development of the new website during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lynne Holton, Chair

Congregational Development activities in 2012 continued to focus on extending the invitation to individuals and families in our neighbourhood to join us at Rideau Park United Church.

Rideau Park has much to offer in terms of faith, spirituality and nurturing; programs and staff; excellence, use of talents, opportunities to serve and sense of purpose; community, fellowship and inclusiveness. Our premise has been that increased awareness of these many blessings can result in increased participation as well.

Some of our activities in 2012 highlighted the Easter and Christmas services and special events. Supplemental half-page ads were placed in Vistas and 500 Easter postcard invitations were hand delivered by members of the congregation. Rideau Park United Church bookmarks were included in many of the bulletins to serve as a take away reminder of the services and programs we have to offer.

An Open House was held in September and a number of families that attended the event have since made return visits. A "Ride to Rideau Park" initiative canvassed four apartment buildings in our neighbourhood to determine if a ride to and from the 11:15 service would help to boost attendance. A lack of response suggested that it would not, but it was still considered a successful trial in that interest was determined before expenses were incurred.

You may have noticed a new Welcome to Rideau Park United Church card that was placed in the pews in December. The welcome information on the one side of the card is augmented by personal contact information on the other.

Thanks to Wayne Bond, Steve Clifton, Brian Hamilton, Mary Lynne Holton, Marilyn Law and Drew Presley for their support and participation in Congregational Development in 2012. Each member of the congregation can lend their support by being welcoming/inclusive with visitors to the church and with those who we may not know very well. We can also extend a personal invitation to friends, neighbours and family to come and see what Rideau Park is all about.

Respectfully submitted,
Greig Scott, Chair

Rideau Park's Presbytery representatives and their committee involvement in 2102 are as follows: Elizabeth Bryce (Ministry in French (MIF)), Steve Clifton (Chair, Youth and Young Adult (YAYA)), Georgina Fitzgerald (Pastoral Care and Oversight), Chris Inrig (Co-chair, Pastoral Care and Oversight), Brian Irvine (Finance), Karen Lamb (Pastoral Care and Oversight) and Don Melick (Finance and Joint Office User Committees).

The highlight of 2012 was the hosting of General Council 41 at Carleton University. Thanks were extended to the Presbytery Local Arrangements Committee and the 250 volunteers who so ably did the work and organization that was needed.

During 2012, the Rev. David Sherwin received funds to start a new ministry project called Faith and Arts Ottawa. This is a ministry which seeks to create a home for exploring spirituality and question meaning through artistic expression. This experiment in ministry can offer the ability to explore the role of church with a demographic that may not feel at home in our Sunday congregations while also offering programming that may be found exciting by some of our Sunday regulars.

Part of the role of Presbytery is to help resource and nurture the life of the pastoral charges within its bounds. For the past year, Ottawa Presbytery has facilitated conversations amongst some of the pastoral charges located in the Quebec portion of the Presbytery regarding future ministry. Many of these pastoral charges are facing challenges of part time ministry, small membership, aging buildings, limited resources and changing communities. Some of the other Presbytery committee work includes working with congregations changing pastoral relations, helping work through conflicts, being involved in amalgamations, and helping a congregation considering developing its church site.

Education and leadership support is also provided. Events like the one with Diana Butler Bass are ways of providing opportunities for people to explore the changing context in which we are called to be church. This is a challenging time for the life of the church. Our leaders, clergy and lay need space in which to learn and reflect. Ministry personnel gatherings are another way that leadership is brought together to explore resources and topics related to nurturing healthy congregations.

In 2012, Presbytery met 9 times - 2 program and 7 business meetings. They were held at Woodroffe, Emmanuel (twice), Rideau Park, Kitchissippi, Bells Corners, Shawville, Manotick and Aylmer United Churches. One program meeting focussed on issues that would be discussed at General Council 41 and the other offered presentations on centering prayer, healing services, caring ministries (prayer shawl and quilt) and taizé worship. During part of the business meetings, routine administration is dealt with and then presentations are made by various Presbytery, Conference and General Council committees.

YAYA (Youth and Young Adult Ministry) The Rev. Hilary Merritt is the Ottawa Presbytery staff YAYA minister and is supported by the YAYA committee. They had a very busy year as the Worshiplude, Point, Open Table and Camp Awesome programs continued. New this year was an event for youth leaders to discuss ideas for programming in local congregations. The children and young teens at General Council 41 joined the Camp Awesome program at Rideau Park in August. Hilary will be coordinating the young adult component of the second Rendezvous meeting to be held in Winnipeg in August 2014. This will provide networking and leadership development possibilities for Ottawa Presbytery young adults as plans are made. Also Hilary is taking 7 or 8 young adults on a Global Partnership trip to Zambia in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Lamb, Presbytery Representative

The Session, made up of church Elders, is responsible for overseeing the spiritual life and interests of the congregation. The Session Committees are: Social Action and Outreach, Pastoral Care, Christian Development, Worship and Music. Reports from individual committees are found in this annual report. Many Elders serve on these committees. Elders also greet and usher at Sunday Worship Services and serve Communion. Some act as Duty Officers during the week and on Sunday mornings. Elders continue to do visitations and make phone calls to people in their Elder's district. A number of people have requested that their names be put on the email contact list and this has reduced some of the demand on Elders for phone calls and visits and is working well.

There was continued discussion of ways to develop a welcoming culture. The question of welcoming was discussed at all Session meetings this year. This year, Session discussed a Remit from General Council. The remit called for the addition of three United Church expressions of faith: the 1940 Statement of Faith, the New Creed and the Song of Faith. Session approved the remit as did the United Church Council. Session re-examined Rideau Park's marriage policy with respect to same sex marriage, and the preface to the marriage policy has been revised. It removed the restrictions on marriage practices that are related to sexual orientation.

The lists of baptisms, marriages and funerals at Rideau Park are noted at each Session meeting and are listed elsewhere in this Annual Report. The names of retiring Elders and those of new Elders are listed in this report as well.

Brian Neal resigned as Clerk of Session during the year and was replaced by Nancy McPherson who will complete the remainder of Brian's term as Clerk of Session. We thank both of them for their excellent service to the Session. We are also grateful to Jessie Weldon Gibb for her excellent work in maintaining the Elder district lists and identifying any people who should be added to the pastoral care list.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Robinson, Chair

The Trustees, on behalf of the congregation, hold title to the deed of the church property, and are responsible for ensuring such property is adequately maintained and used in accordance with the objectives of the United Church of Canada. In addition, the Board administers a number of funds established at Rideau Park under the direction of the Rideau Park Council and/or its committees. Revenues of these funds derived from donations and the subsequent investment earnings are as follows:

The **Douglas Brown Memorial Fund** is used to support social activities for the physically and mentally challenged.

The **Rideau Park Foundation Fund** has been established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the fifth year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Half the donations to the fund in 2011 combined with investment earnings and unspent funds from 2011 made \$10,070 available for eligible projects in 2012. Four applications for projects were approved by Council totaling \$8,886.

Investment earnings from the **Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund** are turned over to the Committee of Stewards for use at its discretion.

The **Karl Rasmussen Fund** is used to assist people undertaking full-time studies directed towards full-time service in the Christian Church. Only income earned in a given year may be used for this purpose. Income becomes part of capital if not used in the current accounting period. In December, \$450 of interest from the fund was given to Shalome Swinamer to assist her in meeting the costs of her theological studies.

The **Reserve Fund** was established in 2010. It was established with funds received from the Hancock Estate and a small portion of the annual receipts from the Britt Estate. This year \$1,125 of the Britt Estate funds were invested in the Reserve Fund. The total investment in this fund now amounts to \$141,604. The investment earnings from this fund and the principal, if necessary, are available for Council to deploy as circumstances warrant.

Income from the Britt Estate is used as Council deems appropriate. This year \$11,250 was received and Council decided that 10% of this income and 10% of the 2013 funding from this estate will be added to the Reserve Fund.

Members of the Board: Gavin Currie (Chair), Ed Boothe, Norm Edwards, Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson, Bas Groeneweg, Daryl Lindberg, Les MacLauchlan, Jacqueline Newton, Keith Harris and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, ex-officio.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Harris

The Committee of Stewards is responsible for the management of church temporal and financial affairs. The Committee members in 2012 were:

Chair	Gaveen Cadotte (On leave from Oct, 2012)	
Interim Chair	Rod Hagglund (From Oct. 2012 - Dec. 2013)	
Secretary	John Durkee	
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Administration Technical Support	Don Ford	
Counting Teams	Andrew Jeffrey	
Property	Rod Hagglund	John Scollick
Representative on Council	Tony Bernard	
Security	Robert Blake ¹	
Stewardship Liaison/Property Renewal Fund	Brian Hamilton	
United Church Women Representative	Mary Harris	
Members at Large	John Blackmore	Mark Inman
	Bill Ott	Steve Shipley
	Nadia Senyk	
Staff Liaison	Debi Brown (<i>ex officio</i>)	
¹ <i>Non-member</i>		

The Committee of Stewards In 2012, Stewards undertook a number of important activities:

- A comprehensive Policy for the Rental of RPUC Facilities was finalized and forwarded to Council for approval early in the year. Special acknowledgement should be made for the leadership of Gaveen Cadotte, Steve Shipley and Tony Bernard in preparing the document, and to Debi Brown and Erin O'Neill for their thoughtful assistance throughout.
- A major change in the process of counting Sunday givings was instituted on a pilot basis, using a limited number of volunteers, working with the Administrator, to count givings and other Rideau Park revenues during regular office hours rather than using teams to count them immediately after services. This reflects, among other things, the increasing reliance on PAR as opposed to envelope givings by the congregation. The new procedure has been instituted on a trial basis and is being monitored to assess efficiency and security. Particular thanks go to Andrew Jeffrey for his leadership on the new streamlined process.
- A review of insurance practices at Rideau Park was completed, assessing such issues as the respective roles of the United Church of Canada, Rideau Park itself and third parties using our facilities. A number of items, including cataloguing of assets, were identified for action. Thanks to Nadia Senyk for her work on this file.
- The Committee of Stewards continues to work to ensure the financial stability of Rideau Park. Changes such as the option to designate givings toward the area of greatest need have allowed the year-end fiscal position to be brought into better balance than it had been in several recent years. Efforts continue to identify additional sources of revenue, such as new opportunities for rental of facilities, and the revenue sharing from the fruit stand selling locally-grown produce.

Rideau Park Property Renewal Fund In 2012 we completed a number of key property projects:

- the large Sunday School room divider has been replaced. This long needed upgrade provides the space with improved functionality and better soundproofing.
- spring flooding in the Apartment Counting Room required an extensive refurbishment of the space. A comfortable small (6 person) meeting room with a boardroom table and chairs is now there.

- the leaky flat roof over the apartment has been replaced by a much more functional shingled shed roof with extensive insulation, proper venting and a brick side wall.
- the Beecroft Balcony renewal was completed. Changes include installation of built-in cabinetry, sub-floor leveling and carpeting, painting and furnishing - new sofas, chairs, tables, lamps and a meeting table with chairs. A wonderful space has been created for our church program and meeting needs. (It's a must see.)
- two projectors have been installed in the Sanctuary, as well as flat screen TVs in the McKennitt Chapel and the Chancel (for the Choir). Connecting this equipment by WiFi allows us to provide audio visuals (hymn and prayer words, supporting pictures, videos etc.) for our worship services. As we gain a full understanding of this new technology's capacity, we will realize its potential to reinforce our worship experiences.
- In October we applied for a Small Project Grant from the HRSD Enabling Accessibility Fund for automatic door openers and to renovate and make accessible the downstairs washrooms. A decision on awarding the grant (\$48,000) will be made by March of 2013.

All of this work was funded by Property Renewal Fund pledges, fundraising initiatives and a grant from the Rideau Park Foundation for the Sanctuary projector equipment. Fundraising projects in support of the fund include four church dinners, the Amazing Alta Vista Garage Sale, the Rideau Park Café . A detailed statement of source and disbursement of property renewal funds in 2012 is found on page 27 of this report.

The 2013 Property Renewal Plan, a report on capital property improvements and expenditures, outlines our plans for 2013 and can be found on page 28 of this report.

The support and encouragement of the congregation is welcome. As we continue the work of the Property Renewal Fund, all members of the congregation are asked to consider their financial support for renewing our property. Together much can be accomplished.

The sudden illness of our Sexton, Paul Sorg, who has given devoted support to Rideau Park and the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities for so many decades, created a unique challenge in the latter half of this year. While short-term help was hired, and a hiring process eventually engaged the services of Steve Spidell on an interim basis, the Stewards wish to thank all those who stepped up in ways large and small to fill in the many gaps left by Paul's absence. Special thanks also go to:

- Norm Edwards, for his many years coordinating sound system operations for services and other activities;
- The UCW for its continued outstanding efforts supporting the ongoing activities of Rideau Park and the Mission and Service Fund;
- To the duty officers, led by Rob Blake, and the counting volunteers, led by Andrew Jeffrey.
- To Don Ford for his efforts to extend WiFi throughout the church building and his ongoing dedication to support the church's computer network;
- To Brian Hamilton for his efforts in shepherding the work of Property Renewal;
- To all those who contributed their time and efforts to the fundraising activities and Stewardship campaign, notably Marcia Gosse as Chair of the 2013 campaign.

In 2012, the congregation has generously supported the life and work of Rideau Park. May we continue to be a strong and vital community of faith. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Hagglund, Interim Chair

The purpose of United Church Women is to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	117	
Active members:	91	Associate/inactive members: 20
Circle Group:	6	Life memberships: 57

In Memoriam: Hazel Carmichael, Bea Christie, Betty Cole, Mavis Floyd, Louise Laidlaw Long, Gloria McIntosh, Marg Marsh, Mary Wilson

2012 EXECUTIVE:

Honorary Presidents	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Keva McKennirey
Past President	Barbara Robinson
President	Beverly Lee
Vice President	Vacant
Recording Secretary	Marcla Eastwood
Asst. Recording Secretary	Norine Wolfe
Treasurer	Marcia Gosse*
Archives, Literature, Communication	Kay Irvine
Bazaar Convenor	Nancy Begg Durkee
Community, Friendship, Visiting	Karin Ott
Finance and Mission	Mabel Bannerman
Flowers	Dorothy Valliant/Marcia Gosse
Membership	Marg Sturley
Nominations	Barbara Robinson
Quilting	Ruth Ebertz
Social Functions	Vacant
Supply and Welfare	Linda Coombe
Stewards' Representative	Mary Harris
Council of Women Representative	Joyce Ireland*
Presbyterial Representative	Ruth Stockley
* not members of UCW	

Unit Leaders:

Unit 1	Phyllis Bradt	Unit 6	Grace Shaver
Unit 2	Mabel Bannerman	Unit 7	Janet Dundas and Sandra Weedmark
Unit 3	Nancy Begg Durkee	Unit 10	Jessie Weldon Gibb
Circle contacts: Janette Hamilton Silcoff or Doreen Hamilton			

Executive Happenings and Responsibilities:

President: Chaired nine Executive meetings and the Potluck Supper and General Meeting. Attended the planning meeting for the World Day of Prayer and participated in the service. This event was hosted by Rideau Park. Attended Council meetings and reported regularly on the work of our UCW and future plans and events. Participated in the December Candlelight Service and General Meeting.

Past President: Organized UCW Sunday and World Day of Prayer service. Presented two Life Memberships to Myrna Belo and Viola Harasym at the Pot Luck Supper in June. A third Life Membership was presented to Mary Arthur at our Candlelight Service.

Corresponding Secretary: Sends and receives cards to and from people concerning Sympathy, Get Well, Congratulations and Thank you for flowers, lilies and cards, etc.

Treasurer: Thank you, Marcia.

Convenor Reports:

Archives/Literature/Communication: The following was purchased: "Ordinary Heros"; reflections, stories and anecdotes about and by UCW; "Your Child's Baptism" 20 copies; 12 subscriptions to Mandate for two years. A few photos were added to the photo album.

Bazaar: Nancy Begg Durkee convened a very successful Bazaar. It just gets bigger and better every year. A huge thank you to everyone who participated.

Community/friendship: Karen welcomes those who were baptized, confirmed or transferred into RPUC. The parents of newly baptized babies receive booklets. The mothers receive the UCW pamphlet. There were 21 baptisms. There were no new members.

Finance and Mission: The UCW supports 30 local charities and community services, such as CNIB, Christie Lake Camp, Centre 507, The Mission, The Hospice at May Court. 40% of year end funds go to Mission and Service, and 60% goes to RPUC Ministries and Program Fund. The parlour and the parlour kitchen are being considered for updates in the next few years.

Flowers: Thank you to those who delivered flowers on Sundays, Easter and at Christmas. Mabel Bannerman, Mary Harris, and Jessie Weldon-Gibb organize the names of recipients of the weekly flowers, lilies and the red poinsettias.

Nominations: The 2013 position of President has been accepted by Barbara Robinson. Heather Ingrams will be Vice President.

Quilting: The quilters contribute greatly to UCW fundraising.

Supply and Welfare: Thank you to the congregation for recycling: of eye glasses for world eye clinics, postage stamps for Canadian Guide Dogs, Campbell soup labels to buy school supplies, pop can tabs for the Girl Guides at Parkdale and used greeting cards. Mitts, helmets, scarves, toques, slippers, tams, and socks have been knitted and shared with the Ledbury and Banff Community Centres.

Council of Women: The Council of Women (OCW) is an affiliation of women's organizations whose aims are to identify emerging social problems affecting women and their families and to educate the members about these issues. Joyce gives a report of the activities on a monthly basis. Meetings are held at RPUC.

Stewards Rep: Thank you Stewards and Brian Hamilton in particular for making our kitchen renovations happen. We love our new kitchen.

Unit Reports: There are 6 units. Each unit has monthly meetings, usually a program involving films, videos, guest speakers or a topic for discussion. A time of devotion is also an important part of the meeting.

Unit 1 – Makes jams and jellies for the bazaar.

Unit 2 – Hosts the Valentine Coffee Party and Bake Table; holds the Book Sale; manages the Deli table for the bazaar which entails work parties making turkey and meat pies and pizzas. Thank you to those from the congregation who have helped; in particular, Steve Shipley and Jim Ebertz who man the pastry press.

Unit 3 – Holds the Spring and Fall Nearly New Sales, the frozen pie sale and the Bake Table at the bazaar. Unsold clothes in good condition left from the Nearly New sales are given to the Salvation Army or to “Dress for Success”.

Unit 6 – Contributes to and manages the Craft Table for the bazaar.

Unit 7 – Prepares baskets for the bazaar, has a Bake Sale and caters the Curling Banquet. Held a very enjoyable Trivia Night.

Unit 10 – Manages the Lady’s Boutique at the bazaar and caters to some Harmony Club dinners.

Circle Group – Holds a monthly book study. In the fall we began studying the book Ushering in Heaven by Sunder S. Arora, M.D. We held a book sale at the Amazing Alta Vista Garage Sale in June.

We are blessed with outstanding people who contribute so generously of their time, energy, and talents to enrich the lives of those of our congregation, staff and the community.

Thank you to the members of the congregation who helped with our major fund raising events: the Book Sale, turkey pie making, Nearly New Sales and last but not least, the bazaar!

The UCW would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ministers, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald for their support, and thank you to the staff, Debi, Kay, Judy, Sonya, Doreen, and Paul and Lorraine Sorg, for their support and for helping in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Robinson

The annual Fall Stewardship Campaign secures Rideau Park's financial needs for the year ahead and identifies the congregation's time and talent commitments. The campaign's 2013 financial objectives were identified from the 2012 Budget established at last year's Annual Meeting as well as discussions at Stewards and Council.

This year our Fall Stewardship Campaign was again blessed with great leadership when Marcia Gosse graciously accepted to Chair the campaign. We are thankful that Marcia adheres to that wonderful philosophy - if asked to help, I must try and say "yes ". Hugs were in order. The congregation is grateful for Marcia's energy, commitment and generosity of spirit in making this campaign a success.

Our campaign theme "**Abundant Joy, Overwhelming Generosity**" is described in 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7.

Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶

The concluding paragraphs of Marcia's message to the congregation captured the essence of our faith community and the opportunities for abundant joy and overwhelming generosity. The success of the campaign reflects that her message was well received and positively responded to.

God deserves so much more than we give, but if we're honest with ourselves, life happens. We live in a world with complex demands on our time, energy, focus and attention. To see the confirmation class, or the young chimers learning to play a new instrument, or baptisms, or pastoral care, is to see a vibrant church, and this can only survive with your pledge of support.

Our church is not just a building; it is a family of Christ where you can expect to experience abundant joy and overflowing generosity. So....

- *To those who are our friends and family, we support you.*
- *To those who give of their time and love, we honour you.*
- *To you who give of your gifts of talent and time, we thank you.*

May the abundant joy that you share with our family, in your giving to Rideau Park, reflect your abundant generosity.

Rideau Park's Stewardship Campaign is grateful for: Debi Brown's expertise on the campaign data requirements and the tracking of its progress; Kay Saunders for sharing her office, computer, colour printer and photocopier and helping with assembly of the packages, Judy Paré for recording the Time and Talents; Doreen for making up the stewardship packages; the wonderful cake servers; and to Barbara Jeffrey for recording the new pledges in the system.

Stewardship Analysis: In 2013 we received 323 pledges from 520 households for a total of \$566,911 which is 1% less than last year. Of these, 243 (75%) honour their pledges through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$459,827 (81%) of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week when the collection plates are passed they are weighted down with \$9,000 of PAR contributions. This strong support for PAR givings ensures our cash flow throughout the year and enables us to keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the UCC current.

The Ministries and Programs Fund received 318 pledges for a total of \$464,054, M&S received 93 pledges for \$70,750, and the Property Renewal Fund received 98 pledges for a total of \$32,107. The M&P Fund increased by \$11,300 (2.0%). M&S pledges are lower this year by \$9,586 (11.9%)

and Property Renewal decreased by \$7,473 (18.8%). There were 15 (14%) fewer M&S pledges and 15 (13%) fewer Property Renewal pledges.

The 2012 introduction of pledging to the “Area of Greatest Need” augmented the Ministries and Programs Fund which was identified in need of priority funding. At year end the Committee of Stewards was able to allocate \$10,000 (1.8% of total revenues) to Mission and Service and \$7,000 (1.3% of total revenues) to the Property Renewal Fund. In addition, the Ministries and Programs results allowed past years’ deficits to be offset by \$17,560 (3.2% of total revenues). Also, it was not necessary to access the Trustees’ Reserve Fund (Hancock Estate) capital in 2012 (\$5,000 in 2011).

A stained glass window in the McKennitt Chapel was dedicated by the McKennitt family in honour of Flora and Rev. Dr. Ott McKennitt. The Memorial Fund began in 2012 with a balance of \$1,785 and ended with \$2,024.

Rideau Park supports our spiritual growth and enriches our community. Our support and participation as members of the Rideau Park community of faith is witness to God’s grace among us. God has given us so much and there is much that we can share in return. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Hamilton, Chair

This year the Ministry & Personnel Committee was concerned with filling vacancies both permanent and temporary. At the beginning of the year a Search Committee for the Administrative Assistant position advertised, interviewed candidates and selected Kay Saunders to fill the important front office position. Kay started work at Rideau Park at the end of March.

In the fall our Caretaker, Paul Sorg, went on sick leave, our Music Director, Richard Glasser announced his retirement plans for the spring of 2013 and Kay Saunders went on maternity leave. October was quite the month! We have been very fortunate to find excellent, temporary, part-time replacements for Kay and Paul. Judy Paré and Sonya Sweeney are job sharing the Administrative Assistant position and Steve Spidell is our part-time Caretaker during Paul's absence. Thanks to Judy, Sonya and Steve for taking on this important work.

A Search Committee, chaired by Brian Neal, has been established to fill the Director of Music position. The position description was reviewed by the Worship and Music Committee and M&P and approved by Council.

During the spring and early summer, M&P reviewed the ministers' Housing Allowance which is an amount paid by the church in lieu of providing a manse. The review of the Allowance is required every three years. A 6% increase over the amount established in 2009 was recommended and approved by Presbytery in the fall.

In September, with the introduction of the projectors in the sanctuary, the Administrative Assistant took on the new work of preparing the weekly slides for the Sunday services.

M&P also received a request for sabbatical leave from Rev. Steve Clifton. His sabbatical, along with his annual leave will take place from June 1st to September 30th, 2013. As was the case when Elizabeth took her sabbatical in 2011, Steve's responsibilities will be shared by our other two ministers. Georgina has agreed to increase her hours of work in those weeks when the extra duties require more of her time. By taking his sabbatical during the summer months, much of the committee work he is responsible for is at a low ebb and we expect that any extra work required by Elizabeth and Georgina will be manageable. We thank them for stepping up to help out during Steve's absence. We look forward to hearing about Steve's experiences and reflections on his time of renewal when he returns in the fall.

In November and December our administrative staff received training on the new website. Judy and Sonya have taken over updating and maintaining the website with the support of Nancy McPherson and Marjorie Melick. Thanks to Marjorie for maintaining website throughout the year.

God's ministry is in evidence through the work of all our staff: ministers, music director, administrator, administrative assistant, caretaker and lead singers. Each person on our staff shows the presence of God in the work they do for Rideau Park each day. We are very blessed with this demonstration of God's grace in our employees. I know that they are very appreciated by all the congregation.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee consists of Bas Groeneweg, Jim Holton, Marjorie Melick, Mike Presley and Hyacinthe Wade Howard. I thank them for all their support and wise counsel throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Doreen Hamilton, Chair

This year, the Administrative Committee Chair was part of the search committee for the new Administrative Assistant. The Chair was one of many who participated in helping with the development of Rideau Park's new and user-friendly website. As the natural continuation of this involvement, in future, the Chair will act as the liaison between RPUC staff and the Communications Team's website sub-committee and expert IT resource for content and technical issues that may arise with the new website. The Chair will also act as one of the back-up people for updating the new website.

Installation of WiFi throughout RPUC was undertaken, courtesy of Don Ford wearing his Administrative Committee and Stewards' hats, which will be of immense service for ease of functionality and communication at the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McPherson, Chair

The Nominating Committee is a Committee of Council. The objective of the Committee is to ensure that all vacancies on Council, Session, the Committee of Stewards, Trustees, and Presbytery Representatives are filled each year. In addition, the Committee is responsible for recommending appointments for the position of Chair for each of the Committees of Council, Session and Stewards.

The Nominating Committee consulted both the ministerial staff and the Council Chair concerning the church's needs for 2013. The Committee has been able to fill all the vacant positions.

During the summer of 2012, Brian Neal resigned as Clerk of Session and Gaveen Cadotte, Chair of Stewards, requested a leave of absence (Oct. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2013). Nancy McPherson agreed to complete Brian Neal's term (2014) and Rod Hagglund stepped in as Chair of Stewards.

Summary of Nominations: Vacancies on Council for 2013 include Chair of Council, Vice Chair of Council, Chair of Communications Team, Chair of Congregational Development, Session Rep. on Council, Stewards Rep. on Council, Presbytery Rep. on Council, Member at Large on Council.

Other vacant positions for 2013 are Chair of Ministry and Personnel, Chair of Session, Chair of Administration Committee, Stewardship Chair, Chair of Trustees, Co-Chair of Worship and Music, Treasurer, Chair of Social Action and Outreach, Chair of Congregational Development, and Chair of Pastoral Care. Some of the current chairs have chosen to extend for an additional year.

This year, 26 Elders were to finish serving their terms as members of Session. Twenty-one agreed to extend their terms. Their names can be found in the attached table under Members of Session. Five Elders have decided not to renew their terms. Session currently has 52 members for 2013 including two Elders who would be assuming phone list duties only. Many Rideau Parkers continue to embrace new technologies and have chosen to be contacted via email for informational purposes. This has resulted in smaller district lists in many cases. In 2013, there will be 45 districts rather than 50.

The Committee of Stewards needed one new member. The attached table includes the Members of the Committee of Stewards.

Recommendations: As indicated in the attached table, the Congregation's approval is requested for:

1. the appointments to Council;
2. the extension of terms of office for Elders and Stewards;
3. the slate of new Elders and Stewards; and
4. the appointment of new Chairs of Committees as well as an extension of terms for some Chairs of Committees.

The Committee would like to thank all those who are finishing their terms this year for their tireless dedication and service to the church. The Committee would also like to sincerely thank all those who have agreed to contribute their time and talents to the life and work of Rideau Park United Church.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Nominating Committee: Wayne Bond, Mary Lynne Holton, Marilyn Law, Drew Presley, Steve Shipley, Jessie Weldon-Gibb, and Ministers, Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce for their support and dedication to achieving our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Paré, Chair

The following pages list the appointments (both proposed and existing) to Council, Session, Stewards, Trustees, Presbytery Representatives and the Chairs of all Committees with the terms of office that they have agreed to serve. For clarification, the year in parentheses after each name indicates that the person will serve in the position until February of that year (that is, until the congregational meeting in February).

An asterisk (*) indicates new appointments to the positions indicated. A double asterisk (**) indicates extension of term.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- The Chair and Vice-chair are elected for two-year terms.
- All other Council members are elected for three-year terms, except as indicated.
- The Ministers and Church Administrator are ex-officio, non voting members.

COUNCIL CHAIR		Mary Lynne Holton*	(2015)
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR		Alyce Dunnewold*	(2015)
COUNCIL SECRETARY		Lisa Sadler	(2014)
CHAIR OF SESSION		Christy Harris*	(2016)
SESSION REPRESENTATIVES		Judy Paré*	(2016)
		Maureen Stark	(2015)
CHAIR OF STEWARDS	On leave	Gaveen Cadotte	(2015)
	replaced by	Rod Hagglund	(2014)
STEWARD REPRESENTATIVES		Bob Roden**	(2014)
		Bob Rennie*	(2016)
CHAIR OF STEWARDSHIP		Brian Hamilton**	(2014)
CHAIR OF MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL		Marilyn Law*	(2016)
OTTAWA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE		Doug Robinson*	(2016)
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES		Gavin Currie**	(2014)
PRESIDENT OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN		Barbara Robinson*	(2014)
CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE		Nancy McPherson**	(2014)
MEMBERS AT LARGE		Drew Presley*	(2015)
		Adam Kurz	(2016)

Members retiring: Wayne Bond (Chair), Doug Robinson (Chair of Session), Karen Humphries (Session Rep.), Tony Bernard (Stewards' Rep.), Doreen Hamilton (Chair of Ministry and Personnel), Karen Lamb (Ottawa Presbytery Rep.), Beverly Lee (President of UCW), Greig Scott (Council Member at Large)

STANDING COMMITTEES

SESSION CHAIR		Christy Harris*	(2016)
CLERK OF SESSION		Nancy McPherson	(2014)
ELDERS	See <i>Members of Session</i> section		
STEWARDS' CHAIR	On leave	Gaveen Cadotte	(2015)
	replaced by	Rod Hagglund	(2014)
TREASURER		Bob Roden**	(2014)
STEWARDS	See <i>Members of Stewards</i> section		

CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL**

Marilyn Law* (2016)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Nancy McPherson** (2014)

COMMUNICATIONS

Alyce Dunnewold* (2015)

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Greig Scott** (2014)

STEWARDSHIP

Brian Hamilton** (2014)

SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH

Sandra Weedmark** (2014)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

(Co-chairs) Kate Whitridge (2015)

Shailja Verma** (2014)

PASTORAL CARE

Christel Kurz* (2016)

NOMINATIONS

Judy Paré (2015)

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Elizabeth Acquaah (2014)

Chairs retiring: Doreen Hamilton (Ministry and Personnel), Mary Lynne Holton (Communications),
Alyce Dunnewold (Pastoral Care)

TRUSTEES**CHAIR**

Gavin Currie

SECRETARY

Daryl Lindberg

MEMBERS

Ed Boothe

Murray Ferguson

Les MacLauchlan

Norm Edwards,

Bas Groeneweg

Jacqueline Newton

Bob Elliott

Keith Harris

Susan Vaughan

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Inrig,

Don Melick

Brian Irvine,

Doug Robinson

Representative retiring: Karen Lamb

MEMBERS OF STEWARDS

Tony Bernard** (2014)

John Blackmore (2015)

Gaveen Cadotte** (2015)

John Durkee** (2014)

Donald Ford** (2014)

Rod Hagglund** (2014)

Brian Hamilton** (2014)

Mark Inman (2015)

Andrew Jeffrey** (2014)

Bill Ott** (2014)

Bob Rennie* (2016)

Bob Roden** (2014)

Steve Shipley (2014)

Stewards retiring: Nadia Senyk, John Scollick

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Elizabeth Acquaah** (2016)

Malcolm Bayne** (2014)

Graeme Beattie** (2014)

Lynda Becker** (2016)

Nancy Begg-Durkee (2014)

Myrna Belo** (2016)

Sharon Bernard** (2014)

Wayne Bond (2014)

Janet Buske-Wichser** (2015)

Gavin Currie** (2014)

Helen Cutts (2014)

Dieudonné Detchou (2015)

Janet Dundas (2015)

Bas Groeneweg (2014)

Doreen Hamilton** (2014)

Janette Hamilton-Silcoff** (2014)

Don Harper (2014)

Lois Harper** (2016)

Christy Harris** (2016)

Jim Holton (2015)

Mary Lynne Holton* (2015)

Karen Humphries** (2016)

Heather Ingrams** (2015)

Shanti Inman** (2016)

Chris Inrig** (2014)

Joyce Ireland** (2014)

Karen Lamb**	(2016)	Marilyn Law**	(2015)
Ron Little**	(2016)	Anne MacMillan	(2014)
Kathy Mayes**	(2016)	Nancy McPherson**	(2016)
Don Melick	(2014)	Brian Neal	(2014)
Jacqueline Newton**	(2014)	Judy Paré	(2015)
Drew Presley	(2014)	Doug Robertson	(2014)
Elaine Robertson	(2014)	Barbara Robinson	(2015)
Doug Robinson**	(2016)	Gary Seymour	(2015)
Steve Shipley	(2014)	Muriel Spratt	(2014)
Maureen Stark	(2015)	Bill Totten	(2014)
Susan Vaughan	(2014)	Hyacinthe Wade-Howard	(2015)
Sandra Weedmark	(2015)	Jessie Weldon-Gibb	(2015)
Kate Whitridge**	(2016)	Chris Winckel	(2014)
Joanne Winckel	(2014)		

Elders retiring Melanie Achtenberg, Heather Bennett, Cameron Jeffrey, Margaret Hart, Dorothy Valliant

The Worship and Music Committee, in consultation with Stewards, and with thanks to Brian Hamilton, arranged for projection facilities in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Chancel Loft, and projection was incorporated in worship services beginning in September. The congregation has appreciated this new aspect of Sunday worship, and projection has also been used for some funerals.

The committee expresses appreciation, thanks and gratitude to:

- Richard Glasser for his hard work in providing an excellent music program and many memorable concerts from the choirs through the years.
- Andrea Laliberté and her team for their time and effort in leading the children and youth chime and handbell choirs, and for the many hours that Andrea, her family and the team spent writing, directing and presenting the annual Christmas pageant.
- Marcia Gosse for her wonderful dedication in leading the handbell choirs, and providing another first class Bell Choir concert, as well as sharing bell music ministry in the broader community.
- Heather Ingrams, Nadine Dawson and Gretchen Conrad, for their leadership of the cherubs, children's and young choirs, to Barbara Jeffrey for her wonderful playing of the organ and piano, and to our drummer, section leads, and the other musicians who contribute to Rideau Park's music ministry.

The committee approved the purchase of chimes to complete the upper octave. New Terms of Reference for the Music; Handbell and Chimes; and the Dianne Ferguson Funds were approved.

Rideau Park offered mid-week services during Lent, the summer, and Advent. Encarna continued to be a deeply moving experience. We are thankful for all the volunteer midweek service leaders.

Initiatives to support and renew the 11:15 service were considered. An open meeting and brainstorming session was held in May. The committee chose to concentrate on a few key ideas:

- The Sunday 11:15 service is now called the Contemplative Service.
- Members are encouraged to sit nearer to the front of the church to foster a sense of closeness and support of the worshipping community.
- A volunteer is willing to provide childcare at this service, if the need arises.
- In 2011, the committee began holding a series of luncheons for the 11:15 service. These lunches are now offered on a monthly basis on the third Sunday of the month, and both the 9:30 and 11:15 services are invited to attend. Many of the Contemplative service worshipers have expressed sincere enthusiasm and gratitude for the fellowship of these luncheons.
- In general, the committee is trying to be sensitive to the worship needs of the members of our congregation who attend the 11:15 service.

The Worship and Music Committee completed its study of the book "In God's Presence – Encountering, Experiencing and Embracing the Holy in Worship" by N. Graham Standish. Discussions of the book informed the Committee's deliberations and initiated some innovations.

2012 was another busy year, and special thanks are given to our organizers of coffee, communion support, ushering, decorating, advertising, music leaders, ministers, the staff of Rideau Park, and Steve Shipley for his invaluable assistance as recording secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Shailja Verma and Kate Whitridge, Co-chairs

In 2012, there were two ringing choirs for young people at Rideau Park United Church. In January 2012, Note-Able Sound Chimes ensemble had 22 members in grades 2-6, and met from 6:30 – 6:50 pm each Thursday in the Sanctuary. The group was directed by Andrea Laliberté with assistance from Erin Brunet, Jennie Chaisson, Merina Shulist and members of our teen bell choir. Grace Notes Teen Bells had 17 members from grades 7-12 and met from 6:50 – 7:30 pm each Thursday, also in the Sanctuary. The group was also directed by Andrea Laliberté with the capable aid of Erin Brunet, Jennie Chaisson and Merina Shulist.

It was with gratitude that the Chimes program welcomed new instruments during the Spring 2012 season. Two new lower octaves and the completion of our upper octave meant that 5 octaves of instruments were available to the participants (including a double set of the central 2 octaves). This greatly enhanced our ringing capability – with such a large number of participants, we can now ensure everyone has enough notes to ring and that we have room to grow in the future. The new chimes made their debut during the annual Bells in Spring concert in May 2012.

In the Spring of 2012, both Note-Able Sound and Grace Notes shared their music in worship at Rideau Park on several occasions and participated in the annual spring Bell concert. A highlight for both groups was the opportunity to travel down the road to offer our music at Oakpark Retirement Home in April. Both the Chimes and Grace Notes played several musical selections and had an opportunity to visit with the residents. Everyone enjoyed this outing so much that we hope to make this an annual event.

In the fall of 2012, both groups once again enjoyed a large enrolment and continued under the direction of Andrea Laliberté. Assisting Andrea were Erin Brunet, Merina Shulist and Pat Whitridge; many members of Grace Notes serve as mentor ringers for our youngest chimers and we are grateful for their support. Our rehearsal times changed slightly this fall, allowing greater practice time for both groups. Note-Able Sound rehearsed 6:15 – 6:45 pm and Grace Notes rehearsed 6:45 – 7:30 pm, both in the Sanctuary. Note-Able Sound, with 22 members, shared their music as part of the Christmas Bell concert and the Christmas Eve family service. Grace Notes started the fall with 19 members, and shared their music at the Christmas Bell Concert, the annual Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Eve family service.

In November of 2012, Grace Notes Teen Bells was invited to share their music at “The Point”, a special regional youth worship service organized by our Presbytery. Grace Notes was thrilled to participate in a short skit and to share 2 pieces of music. As a result of our participation in that service, we have been invited to share our music at the upcoming “Worshiplude” youth service in February 2013, which involves approximately 500 youth from across the province of Ontario.

For more information, or to register for one of our ringing groups for children and teens, please contact Andrea Laliberté at 613-248-1283 or marcandrea@rogers.com.

Respectfully submitted by:
Andrea Laliberté, Director

It has been a busy year for the Rideau Park Handbell groups with the demand for performances far exceeding the number of available dates.

A Touch of Brass is one of three adult handbell groups with 11 dedicated members and several volunteer substitutes. Their love of music is reflected in the faces of all who listen as they play for the glory of God at Rideau Park United on a regular basis as well as sharing their talents at the U.C.W. Candlelight Service, the Rehabilitation Centre, CTV Morning Live, Dominion Chalmers United Church for the General Council Worship Service, a wedding, etc. It was an honour to perform "*When God Began To Create Heaven and Earth*" which was composed for bells and choir, by Nadine Dawson, a member of Rideau Park.

La Bell Ensemble is the second adult handbell group with 10 dedicated members who love to take the bells and share their talents at Barrhaven United Church, MacKay United Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, Parkdale United Church, Oakpark Retirement Home, Blackburn Hamlet supporting education for women, St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Community Singers, etc.

Ringin' Praise is the third adult handbell group with 9 wonderful members with a desire to learn. They are an enthusiastic group who enjoy learning the various bell techniques and sharing their talents in the joint bell concerts.

All of the groups were active participants in the "Bells In Spring" Concert – a massed concert which incorporated 3 other handbell choirs from neighbouring churches in the community. This year we started the Christmas season with our annual "Ringin' In Christmas" Bell Concert in December for Rideau Park Bell & Chimes choirs. Then it was on to ringin' endlessly but joyously until midnight on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to all the dedicated ringers – new and long-standing ringers alike! They are a fantastic group of people who love bells and music.

If you are interested in joining any of these talented groups and becoming a handbell ringer or chimes ringer, please call Marcia Gosse at 731-2281.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Gosse, Director

The mandate of the Christian Development Committee is to take the lead in planning and developing programs and events to promote Christian development for people of all ages in the congregation. The following is a list of ongoing programs, and annual events that the committee oversees.

Membership: Elizabeth Acquaah, Rev. Steve Clifton, Dieudonné Detchou, Janet DiFrancesco, Bas Groeneweg, Andrea Laliberté, Anne Marie Tessier, Gary Seymour, Tara Lynne Lockhart, Amy Neal, Maureen Stark

Programs

Sunday School
Sunday Evening Bible Study
Adult Bible Study Groups
Lenten Book Study
Adult Retreats
Confirmation Classes
Vacation Bible School
Hear Say Supper Group
Scouting Programs
Shoe Boxes for Harmony House Campaign
Sunday School Children's Cards for Charity

Events

Congregational Picnic/Welcome Back Brunch
Carol Gardner Awards
Carleton University Pause Table
Advent Happening
Pageant Reception

The CD Committee is a very busy committee that is responsible for a number of programs and events. Fortunately, many of these programs "seem" to run themselves because of the contributions of our wonderful volunteers and of course the great work of our staff person, Steve Clifton. With the help of the volunteers, we continue to provide a vibrant Sunday school program. We are privileged to have approximately 20 teachers and helpers, and an average of 55 students in our Sunday school. We are blessed to have many talented people contribute to our Sunday school program that continues to be an attractive feature of our church. We welcomed Morgan McKinnon as the new Sunday school teacher for Grade 7, 8, 9 students.

Thirteen Sunday school students were confirmed in June. We welcome them as full members of Rideau Park.

The Carol Gardner Award, which was started five years ago, is a means of honouring outstanding contributions to our Sunday school. Last year's recipient was Ann Marie Tessier, who was recognized for her long and faithful teaching and service to the Sunday school, as well as to the Christian Development Committee.

We would like to especially thank Paul Sorg, who continued to have Sunday school rooms ready on Sunday mornings, and also took care of all the changes that we requested. We are pleased to hear that Paul will return from sick leave and be back with us in early February.

It has now been five years since our Vacation Bible School program (VBS) has been offered as a full day program led by the youth of Ottawa Presbytery and supported by youth volunteers from Rideau Park. The option of a full day camp continued to appeal to many working families. For 2012, approximately 53 children attended Vacation Bible School compared to 60 in 2011. The program continues to be successful. This year, VBS had the privilege of hosting three children who attended General Council 41 in Ottawa.

CD Committee hosted 60 youth from the London Conference who attended Worshiplude in Ottawa. CD provided breakfast to our guests on the Saturday and Sunday of Worshiplude.

CD Committee renewed the 28th Ottawa Scouts' Charter. The 28th Ottawa Scouts Group is very active, and currently comprises 30 Cubs, 26 Beavers, 18 Scouts, and 15 Venturers.

We were fortunate to have "event shepherds" who helped make our Advent programs possible: Tara Lynne Lockhart for Advent Happening; Gretchen Conrad and Mark Shulist for the Harmony House, and Banff Avenue Community House Shoebox program; Becky and Adam Kurz for the Christmas Pageant reception; and Andrea Laliberté for directing the Christmas Pageant. Andrea also organized teen knitting classes and produced at least 25 prayer shawls that were distributed to individuals who were grieving or were going through difficult or challenging times.

We also want to highlight the wonderful contributions of Janine Ewing Dolbec, who was in her eighth year of running the Children's Cards for Charity Project, and Anne Marie Tessier for stepping forward to become the Event Shepherd for the Welcome Back Brunch. The brunch was organized in collaboration with the Congregational Development team that hosted an Open House.

We welcomed Tara Lynne Lockhart, Maureen Stark, Gary Seymour, and Amy Neal who joined the CD Committee.

Sunday school teachers now have access to WiFi technology. Teachers who have access to laptops and iPads can download their Sunday school curriculums, as well as their lessons while in class. This will cut down the cost of purchasing printed copies of curricula.

The CD Committee comprises dedicated members who generously give of their time and talent. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their hard work this past year, and I invite more of you to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Acquaah, Chair

High School age youth meet every Sunday night in the Church Parlour for Youth Bible Study (YBS). Steve Clifton leads this group. Last spring we completed a study of the Book of Revelation. This fall YBS began what we call: the *Theology of Cinema?*.... or how about *Movies and the Magisterium?* *Flicks and Faith?*... Anyway, whatever we call it, we have been watching movies this fall, films that have themes that reflect on the Gospel in some way, and then we discuss them through the lens of the Christian tradition. We started with a trip through the wardrobe and visited *Narnia*, moved on to the movie *Doubt*, followed by *Places in the Heart* and *Romero*. In the New Year we plan on going together to see *Les Miserables* at the cinema; this musical is thick with Christian themes: faith, forgiveness, redemption...all with an amazing soundtrack.

Amy Neal pulled together a young adult group this fall, which meets at the church once a month or so. This group is for those of university age. They meet for discussion and fellowship.

Rideau Park sends food and volunteers to the Carleton University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Pause Table in April and December, providing free food and friendly smiles to students during their exams. The Pause table is a significant outreach and last year 8,357 students stopped by. The generosity of those who give food or time is really appreciated by the students.

The Chaplaincy sent a thank you note that read as follows: *"The students were so thankful. Many had no money left for food, or were too anxious to think about cooking. Having free food available meant that they were going into their exams with "fuel" in their systems. Encouraging words from the volunteers were also highly valued. A proctor told us that she could tell which students had been to the Pause Table because they were the calm ones."*

Thanks to the Presbytery Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Ministries program, there are opportunities for our young people to be involved in Presbytery YAYA events. Young Adults are invited to gather on the last Sunday evening of each month for a meal at an event called the Open Table (www.theopentable.ca) at All Saints church in Sandy Hill; this is a joint Anglican/ Lutheran/ Presbyterian/ United Church venture. Twice each year, youth are invited to gather for the Point , a worship event for teenagers in the Ottawa Presbytery. Some of our youth have helped to lead and plan the Point, and our youth handbell choir played at the service. More than 100 young people attend the Point in the fall. More than 600 attended the service in winter this year. You don't have to be young to attend the Point; why not come out to the Worshiplude service in 2013? It will be at Dominion Chalmers United on the evening of February 2. It's an amazing experience to be in a congregation with 600 youth and young adults.

The February Point is huge because it is part of Worshiplude; youth from all over Quebec and Ontario come to Ottawa for Winterlude, are hosted by local churches and join in with the Point worship gathering. RPUC hosted 56 awesome young people from London Conference last year during Worshiplude weekend and more are coming to be with us again in February 2013.

Our Presbytery also runs the Camp Awesome VBS program over 6 weeks in July and August, and several of our young people are involved in leading the program. Camp Awesome is growing and expanding, going from 17 camps in 2011 to 21 camps in 2012 with more being added in 2013.

Our congregation is blessed with great young people who contribute much to our church's life. Youth make our annual VBS possible with their enthusiastic leadership. A number of our youth and young adults serve as Sunday School teachers through the Sunday School year. Projects like Advent

Happening, the Church Picnic, Christmas Cheer and the Christmas Pageant engage our youth in the work of our congregation. They share musical gifts through Jubilation and Note-able Sound. Our youth bless us with their gifts in many ways. And we are grateful for all those who work with the youth of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Steve Clifton

The scouting program is run under the auspices of the Christian Development Committee. We have had a very successful year. In the fall session we had 93 youth and 32 leaders in our coed program (23% female). This generated a retention rate of over 82% and a growth rate of over 28%! We could not do this without our partner – Rideau Park United Church. We also applied for and received a \$14,600 Trillium Grant for the capital costs of replacing our defunct canoe trailer and to buy new canoes, paddles, life jackets and tents.

Visit our website and click on the section tabs to see pictures of what we've been up to:
<http://www.28thottawa.org/>

Beaver Scouts: Beaver Scouts are ages 5-7. The Beavers participated in Scoutrees and Apple Day, Scout Sunday at Rideau Park United Church, helped clean up the Alta Vista School Park and planted trees in the spring. For Remembrance Day, Beavers planted a Peace Garden at Rideau Park and had a special guest who talked about his childhood during the war in London. They also went carolling for the residents of St. Patrick's home in December. Beaver families took part in several outdoor activities including Beaverees, skating at Playfair Rink, swimming night, tobogganing, two family hikes, All Sections Camp at Lac Philippe, and the Rideau Area All Sections Activity Day.

Cub Scouts: Cub Scouts is geared to children between the ages of 8-10. Our main focus is badge work, but making it fun so our cub scouts earn the badges without a classroom atmosphere. Our badge requirements include camping in the outdoors, the environment, the world we live in, crafts, games and songs. The program is delivered in a supporting environment where our older cub scouts learn to be part of the leadership team and provide ideas for our program. Our Cub Scout program is the idea of our youth put into action.

Scouts: Scouts are ages 11-14 and the troop has 5 girls, 12 boys. Programming included eight nights of camping, an introduction to squash, hiking near Meech Lake, a visit to Ottawa's Paramedic headquarters, participation in Scout Sunday at Rideau Park, a Geocaching competition, The Amazing Race urban night hike, archery, volunteering for the Ottawa Food Bank and at the National Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph. Six youth took a leadership training course, three completed St. John Ambulance Standard First Aid and one received the Chief Scout Award. A leader volunteered for a Scout trip to build a clinic ward in western Kenya and in 2013 the Scouts/Venturer Scouts plan to travel to Peru to lay water pipe in an area recovering from an earthquake. The troop continues to grow and nine Cub Scouts are expected to move up to Scouts.

Venturer Scouts: Venturer Scouts are ages 14-17. The 15 registered youth had a busy fall with lots of camping, starting with our all sections camp, then Rovent, which is a Joint Council event held at Camp Opemikon, and finishing with a great late fall hike in Frontenac Provincial Park the first weekend of November that involved hiking 22 kms and spending both nights at great lake-side camp sites. Weekly activities have included a scavenger hunt downtown, improv, building a catapult, overnight movie night at the church, board games and Christmas cookie baking.

Respectfully submitted,,
Gary Seymour, 28th Ottawa Scouts

The Pastoral Care Committee continued to coordinate the visiting of those in our church community who are no longer able to attend church services, events and functions. On behalf of the congregation, it sent condolences to recently bereaved members of the church community. It helped support, as needed, sending of birthday and other significant life event best wishes to members of the congregation. It sponsored and organized the reception for the annual "Our Hearts Remember" service, a service where we remember loved ones who live on in our hearts. It helped to support the prayer shawl ministry. The Pastoral Care Committee also continued to fulfill its role of welcoming and providing information on Rideau Park United Church for newcomers.

Early in the year, the committee held a Sunday afternoon service with communion, and a tea afterwards, for seniors who are not able to get out to church regularly. Transportation to and from the service was made available to those needing it.

It has been my privilege as Chair to serve alongside a group of highly dedicated people who faithfully visit and communicate with members of our church community whose presence in it is no longer a very visible one. Most of these volunteers have been providing this pastoral care service for many, many years. On behalf of the congregation, I thank them for this vital role they perform in keeping our community bonds strong.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

The members of Social Action and Outreach are a dedicated and committed group. The Committee organizes programs/events/space for: tenants in low-income housing; Christmas Hampers; Heron Emergency Food Bank; seniors; children and their care givers; and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Weedmark, Chair

Christmas Cheer – Frances Dawson

Again this year, the staff took on the role of the Christmas Cheer Coordinator and did a wonderful job. As in past years, the Rideau Park congregation very generously donated funds and their time. This permitted us to provide 79 hampers and 77 gift cards to families struggling to provide their families with food during the Christmas Season. Our Christmas hamper food and gift cards were purchased again through our neighbourhood Wilson's Independent Grocery Store.

Peace and Development – Marilyn Law

The Peace and Development Committee again arranged Black History Sunday on January 22nd. Rev. Emmanuel Ofori of Union United in Montreal was our guest speaker and as well the choir of Union United provided the music. We arranged for Minutes for Mission in the Sunday bulletins once a month. The committee has agreed to sponsor two sisters from the Congo who are presently in a refugee camp in Thailand. They have an aunt and uncle in Ottawa who are prepared to house them when they get here. The application has gone into Canada Immigration but it is expected it will be eighteen months to two years before they actually arrive. We are working with Resurrection Parish on this and as well St. Thomas may also participate. We will keep you advised. We also had a Sunday afternoon event with a Coptic priest which proved quite interesting.

Heron Emergency Food Centre – Kathy Mayes

Demand is up this year again. 60 volunteers work very hard to serve the 1,600 plus people who come to HEFC for emergency food aid every month. HEFC is the second largest Food Bank agency in Ottawa. The financial support and food donations from the Rideau Park community continue to be an important factor in HEFC's ability to provide nutritious emergency food supplies.

Blair Court Community House – Frances Dawson

In reply to the question "What does the relationship with Rideau Park United Church" mean to Blair Court, Kristy, the Executive Director immediately responded with appreciation for Rev. Elizabeth Bryce's consistent consideration of Blair Court and the rapid response to ad hoc community needs from members of Rideau Park. An example of the latter was the furniture donated by several Rideau Park families to a recently arrived family to Blair Court who had no furniture with which to make a home. Of course the financial support is appreciated but that was not the first thing to come to mind; it was the constant solidarity with a community that is rich in aspiration but often struggling on limited means.

Thursday Euchre Club – Steve Shipley

The unofficial mandate of this club is, in order: to laugh; to talk and then play cards and we are very good at all three. Approximately 20 plus people arrive each week to play rousing games of Euchre which is followed by a good hot cup of tea and cookies. Oh yes, and once a month we do have birthday cake as well as two parties at Christmas and in June. The door is always open for new members and guests. We meet each Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 pm from September to June. So please do drop in and bring a friend.

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) – Don Melick

The Multifaith Housing Initiative is an Ottawa based charitable organization that currently provides 42 units of affordable quality housing to needy individuals. During the year 2012, MHI submitted to the City of Ottawa a 30 unit development plan consisting of a mix of new building and the renovations to some existing housing units. While this submission was not accepted due to lack of funds in the City 2012 budget, some modifications to the proposal have been provided by the City and MHI has been asked to reapply for support in 2013. The search for other affordable projects continues and MHI is planning a capital appeal program to further facilitate growth plans during the year 2013. Again in 2012 The Rideau Park Foundation has continued its sizable loan support. Many activities require volunteer support. Call Don Melick at 613-523-2545 for more information.

Banff Avenue Community House – Bas Groeneweg

This centre is situated in a somewhat obscure corner of the city, opposite Home Depot on Bank Street just past the Walkley Road intersection. This is one of fourteen similar centres located throughout the city. Sylvie Manser is the very competent and industrious House Director working with a small staff, a number of volunteers, a budget consisting of grants from the city and other institutions and many charities. This is a low-rental and low-income area and programs are all directed toward helping these people – adults and children – find employment, improve education and language skills and to improve their overall situation. There are currently 116 households, slightly over half are headed by single parent and slightly more than 200 children.

Group for Friends - Bill and Anne McMillan

This is both a fun and a support group for physically or mentally challenged people aged 18 to 40. It meets at Rideau Park for events such as dances and movie/pizza nights.

Alcoholics Anonymous

The Oasis Group of Alcoholics Anonymous has been sponsoring regular speaker meetings at our church for more than 30 years – year around, including holidays. Friends and families of alcoholics and anyone interested in learning about AA or alcoholism are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

50+fitness - Ada McEwen and Mary Harris

A group of seniors meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning to exercise at eight week intervals.

Harmony Club - Ayliffe Kettles and Margaret Nelson

This group meets on the last Wednesday of each month from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm (excepting June, July and August). Cards and conversation precede a lunch made by volunteers. This is usually followed by a program of music or a guest speaker.

Playgroup

Pre-school age children and their parents or caregivers use the large Sunday School room for a variety of activities for small children and socializing. They meet Monday to Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00.

Rideau Park Curling Club

A group of men and women from the congregation meet regularly at the RA Centre to enjoy a game of curling, and new members are always welcome, no experience is necessary.