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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**NEW GLASGOW, NOVA SCOTIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

(year ending December 31, 2021)

**MINISTERS SINCE 1786**

Rev. Dr. James MacGregor 1786-1830

Rev. Dr. David Roy 1830-1871

Rev. Dr. E. A. MacCurdy 1871-1891

Rev. Dr. James Carruthers 1892-1904

Rev. G. Ernest Forbes 1904-1917

Rev. Dr. E.H. Ramsay 1917-1925

Rev. John A. Sutherland 1926-1928

Rev. Dr. Norman D. Kennedy 1929-1942

Rev. Dr. Lloyd MacLellan 1943-1955

Rev. Hugh M. Creaser 1955-1971

Rev. Robert Cruickshank 1972-1979

Rev. Evelyn Carpenter 1980-1988

Rev. Marian A. Patterson 1995-2000

Rev. Dr. Glen Matheson 1989-2016

Rev. Dr. Kenneth MacLeod (interim) 2016-2018

Rev. Dr. Morley Shaw (supply) 2018 -2019

Rev. Andrew MacDonald 2019 - present

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**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church, New Glasgow, was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 28, 2021, beginning at 12:15 pm and ending at 12:55 pm.

Rev. Andrew MacDonald acted as Chairman and Jane McDow acted as Secretary.

Rev. MacDonald opened the meeting with prayer.

It was moved by Gary Ross, seconded by Phoebe Fraser that the minutes from the February 23, 2020 meeting be approved.

It was moved by Keith MacDonald, seconded by Francis Savage, that the Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2020 be received and considered as printed. Motion carried.

The 2020 Annual Report was reviewed including the Minister’s Report, the 2020 Year in Review, the Pastoral Care Team, the Session Report, and reports form the Choir, Circle of Friends, First Presbyterian Church & St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church (Kirk) Coordination Team, the Mission, Outreach & Hospitality Committee, Catherine Mair Auxiliary (AMS), the Finance, Maintenance and Stewardship Team, the Worship & Music Team and Insurance Coverage.

In the course of reviewing these reports, Rev. MacDonald thanked the Worship & Music Team for the sound system improvements which have allowed everyone to better hear the minister and the music. In discussing the Insurance Coverage, a question was raised as to whether the baby grand piano on loan was covered by First Church’s insurance.

It was moved by Brent MacQuarrie, seconded by Mark Thibeau, that these reports be adopted. Motion carried.

The Auditor’s Report, Trustee Report and Church financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 were then reviewed and the financial challenges, future outlook and importance of maintaining a constant revenue were discussed.

It was moved by Jackie Ross, seconded by Brenda Tutty that the Auditor’s Report, Trustee Report and Church financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 be approved. Motion carried.

The budget for the 2021 year was reviewed.

The motion from Session respecting the Presbyterian Sharing goal for 2021 was discussed. It was moved by Elder Mark Thibeau, seconded by Elder Brent MacQuarrie that the Presbyterian Sharing goal of $5,000 be adopted in principle. Motion carried.

It was moved by Gary Ross, seconded by Jennifer Thibeau that the Camp Geddie allocation in the 2021 budget in the amount of $1,000 be approved. Motion carried.

It was moved by Sharon Mason, seconded by Larry MacLeod that the Pictou County Council of Church’s allocation in the 2021 budget in the amount of $100 be approved. Motion carried.

The balance of the 2021 budget was reviewed including the Presbytery and Synod allocations. After review and discussion of the budget items and the need to start considering ways to increase revenue and decrease expenses, it was moved by Larry MacLeod, seconded by Keith MacDonald, that the 2021 budget be adopted as printed. Motion carried.

It was moved by Jennifer Thibeau, seconded by Gary Ross that the Nominating Committee Report outlined on page 5 of the 2020 Annual Report be received and considered. Motion carried.

It was moved by Gary Ross, seconded by Larry MacLeod that the recommendations of the Nominating Committee be approved. Motion carried.

The need for additional revenue sources to operate the Church were further discussed along with upcoming events including the Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing.

There being no further business, it was moved that the meeting adjourn.

Rev. MacDonald closed with prayer.

Jane McDow

Congregational Secretary

**MINISTER’S REPORT – 2021**

The past few years have been very trying for the church. In March 2020 we were forced to close our doors in light of the fast-spreading COVID-19 virus. We all felt that we would be able to return to our normal lives in a few weeks. Well, a few weeks turned into a few months, and even longer. That year we were not permitted to worship together for Holy Week, and that was very hard. We were very fortunate to be able to broadcast our services so that we could, at least, share in some form of worship together.

As the months passed, we started to settle into our new realities, which could be altered or uprooted at any time. The past two years has been very hard for a lot of people. Lives have been changed or altered drastically. Family and friends have been denied access to one another, travel has been suspended or cancelled altogether. Yes, many people made do with Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom, seeing our loved ones on screen and being able to communicate with them has been a godsend. However, it is no comparison or substitute for a hug or embrace.

The toll that the effects of these isolations and denial of close human contact are starting to become more evident. Individual mental health has started to suffer. People are depressed, lonely, starving for any form of contact or physical closeness with friends or family. Human beings are by nature “social beings”. When God created Adam, God saw that it was not good for humans to be alone, so God created Eve to be a partner and companion for Adam. Genesis states: “Then the Lord said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’”

Psychologists have proven that isolation and loneliness are very dangerous for social development and mental health. Steps have been taken throughout the pandemic to ease the strain on worried minds. There has been a relaxing of restrictions, and there seems to be an end in sight to these restrictions, and a return back to normalcy.

However, after two years, things have definitely changed, and they may never be the same again. But we have to try to get back to a pre-COVID functioning. This is very important, especially for the church and church community. During the lockdowns and heightened restrictions, the church has been trying to function. Although we have felt as if our hands were tied behind our backs, we still struggled onward. Online services, reduced in-person church attendance, social distancing, cancellation of church dinners and social hours. We have lived in fear for long enough, it is time to move forward together.

Throughout the pandemic, there has been one passage from Paul that I relied on for hope and certainty in an uncertain time. It comes from Paul's letter to the Romans in the 5th chapter.

“But we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5)

We have **suffered**, we have **endured**, our **character** has been developed and strengthened, and thanks to our faith in God, we have the **hope** necessary to carry on.

It is this hope that we rely on as we will be reopening our doors once again. There have been many people who had or have fears during the pandemic and have isolated themselves from the public and church community. We have to try to be welcoming and offer a safe place for them to want to come back.

I know it will be hard for many to get back into this routine. Once a routine is broken, it's very hard to go back, but this is necessary if we want the congregation to survive. In order to do this, we have to really support each other in our efforts and we have to support the church now more than ever if we want to have a future together.

I am anxiously looking forward to all that 2022 has to offer to us. I especially am looking forward to building and rebuilding relationships with each member of the congregation. My phone is always turned on, and my door is always open for a cup of tea or conversation. This is the time where we will either sink or swim, I know I am ready for the latter. I want First Church to survive and prosper, but this can only be done if together we are ready to work very hard. We have **suffered**, we have **endured**, our **character** has been strengthened, and now we have **hope** to build a strong future together, with God's help, and according to His will.

Yours in Christ,

Diagram

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Rev Andrew MacDonald

2022

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Congregational Secretary (One Year Term) – Jane McDow Feb.2023

Board of Managers Secretary (Three Year Term)-Francis Savage Feb.2024

**Worship and Music Team**

**Members and Term of Expiry**:

Jennifer Thibeau, Andrew Alcorn, Lynn Simpson Feb. 2023

Sara Fullerton, Sharon Mason Feb. 2024

Brent MacQuarrie \*\* Feb. 2025

Reverend Andrew MacDonald, Lloyd MacKay (Ex Officio)

**Pastoral Care Team**

Phoebe Fraser \*\*, Jackie Ross Feb. 2023

Russell MacIntosh, Jane McDow, Jennifer Thibeau Feb. 2024

Chet Fleming, Patrick Young Feb. 2025

**Board of Managers**

Ruth-Anne MacIntosh, Gary Ross, Kevin Reid Feb. 2023

Larry Macleod\*\*, Chet Fleming, Shirley MacDonald, Fran Savage Feb. 2024

Brenda Tutty Feb. 2024

**Congregational Life and Christian Education Team**

Lynn Ann MacLellan Feb. 2023

Mark Thibeau \*\* Jane Williams, Alison MacIvor Feb. 2024

Joan MacIntosh Feb. 2025

**Mission, Outreach and Hospitality Team**

Teela Billington, Shirley Cruickshank, Keith Cruickshank Feb. 2023

Jean McComb Feb. 2023

Edna Fraser, Sheila Dempster Feb. 2024

Clarice Campbell \*\*, Marilyn Johnstone Feb. 2025

**First/Kirk Co-ordination Team**

Clarice Campbell Feb. 2023

Sharon Mason Feb. 2024

Mark Thibeau\*\* Feb. 2025

**Board of Trustees**

Gary Ross \*\*, Larry Macleod, Gary Baudoux Feb. 2023

Kent Williams Feb. 2024

John Zinck Feb. 2025

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Treasurer: Brenda Tutty (Three Year Term) Feb. 2024

Auditor: Marni Anderson CA ( for the 2022 Annual Report) Feb. 2023

**Nominating Committee for 2022**

Gary Ross, \*\* Cathy Lewis, Russell MacIntosh

**\*\* Denotes Team Leader/Contact**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Gary Ross**

**2021 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Jan. 10 Welcomed Sinan Al Shaltan as guest speaker, he spoke of his experiences in his home country of Iraq and his journey to Canada

Mar. 11 Wilfred Marshall celebrated his 106th birthday and was acknowledged on CTV’s   
“Live at Five” Milestones

Mar. 12 Aberdeen Health Foundation honoured Ellen Jardine for her generous donation to the Foundation in memory of her mother, Kaye Jardine

Mar. 20 Take out chilli dinner fundraiser in support of F.A.I.R. Hearts

Mar. 28 Annual Meeting

Apr. 2 Celebrated Good Friday Service

Apr 4 Easter Service cancelled due to snowstorm

Apr 9-10 New Glasgow Music Festival held some of its classes at First

Apr. 11 Celebrated Holy Communion

Apr. 18 Hosted our first Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing

May 2-June 13 Church closed

June 20 & 27 Services resumed

July Church closed for vacations

Aug. 28 Presented a concert by Musique Royale, featuring Hungarian organist Balazs Barnkopf and soprano, Janelle Lucyk

Aug. 29 Celebrated Holy Communion

Sept. 12 Ballots delivered to members by Elders for nomination of new elders

Sept. 19 235th Anniversary Service; celebrated Holy Communion

Sept. 21 Presbytery met at First

Oct. 3 Welcomed Chief Andrea Paul as guest speaker to talk about her experiences as a First Nations person and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 17 Invited to attend the Anniversary Service of Saint Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

Oct. 31 Celebrated Holy Communion; Ordained newest Elder and member of Session, Lynn Simpson; Announced our participation in the Legion Poppy Campaign

Nov. 7 Remembrance Day Service

Nov. 21 Observed the Dissolution/Closing of St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Saltsprings; return of after service coffee hour

Nov. 28 Return of the Christmas Memory Tree fundraiser; introduced new initiative “Tree of Kindness”

Dec. 21 Decision was made to close again due to rising COVID numbers; All Christmas services, including Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve were held virtually

**REPORT OF PASTORAL CARE TEAM 2021**

The Pastoral Care Committee did not have regular meetings during 2021 because of COVID 19.

The committee met on November 21, 2021, following the church service. An email from Session was discussed. During the year there was little activity with the Roll.

It was noted that during the year Rev. MacDonald did not visit the congregation nor did he make any telephone calls.

The Committee continues to send cards to shut-ins and contacts people on special occasions.

Committee for 2022 will be:

Phoebe Fraser, Chair 2022

Chet Fleming 2022

Jacquie Ross 2022 and 2023

Russell MacIntosh 2022 and 2023

Jane McDow 2022 and 2023

Jennifer Thibeau 2022 and 2023

A meeting will be called when there is some activity in the church.

Phoebe Fraser,

Chair

**THE KIRK SESSION – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Good Grief! This has not been an easy year! Another year of Emergency Health Act regulations and restrictions. Another Covid-19 pandemic year of spiking active covid cases, increased deaths, illnesses in our congregation and communities, increased hospitalizations due to the virus with the emergence of Omicron, another new variant and escalating community spread virus with numbers that increased as the year progressed. Another year of adjusting to lockdowns, cancellations, changing numbers for gatherings, shifting back and forth from in-person worship to online services, still no full choir nor congregational singing allowed; to proof of vaccination for everything but essential services. With all that we have endured through another pandemic year, it’s a rich spiritual experience to look back and recall what we were amazingly able to do in spite of it all!

Session met when we could **… but** worship services were still consistently led by Rev. MacDonald and Lloyd MacLean regardless of the weather or restrictions! It reminded me that God can span the distance between us and that God is always here, even when we feel sad, lonely, angry or frustrated! Well done! good and faithful servants!!

In person services were cancelled only twice **due to weather conditions;** January 3rd and April 4th, but were still available online. January 31, pulpit supply was provided by our good friend, Rev. Morley Shaw, when Rev MacDonald was unavailable due to the passing of his grandmother. Rev. Shaw was our guest speaker, along with Rev. Joon Ki Kim, at our 235 Anniversary Service in September. The only closure prompted by OTHER THAN the covid virus, was when we accepted the invitation to worship with St Andrew’s Church to celebrate their Anniversary service with them, October 17th. We closed for the month of July and opened in August, to share summer worship with St Andrews and accommodate minister vacations. Covid closures were another issue!

The greatest milestone on Session’s agenda this year was accepting and voting (by secret ballot) to adopt the major changes to church law and doctrine generated at this year’s Annual General Assembly. Remit B (the Definition of Marriage) and Remit C (the Ordination of LGBTQ Persons, married or single) were accepted by Session with a majority vote. Another was the **great** response from the congregation sending in their new elder nomination ballots. We were so happy to ordain Lynn Simpson, October 31, 2021, and welcome her to Session’s roll. A special milestone was elder, Wilfred Marshall’s celebration of his 106th Birthday on the CTV news show!

Communion was served five times with an average attendance of 51 seated at the Lord’s table.

Dear Elders and people of First Church NG, I want thank you for being faithful partners in the ministry and mission of First Church! In this year of chaos and uncertainty, your presence, gifts,

talents, generosity and support brought hope and encouragement that empowered the mission and ministry we were able to do together!

Elders had to work extra hard to connect with the congregation through phone calls, notes of encouragement or visits when able. It was very difficult, not always being able to make regular personal visits to those in hospital, at home, or in extended care.

I have seen you reach out to care for one another and the community through your support of: the local food bank, our unimaginably successful **first VIRTUAL** Memorial Hymn Sing and fundraiser, your support given to Scott Grant and his family through the Grant Family Benevolent Fund, your support given to the NG Legion through our **first** Memorial Poppy Project Fund, a **new Christmas project,** the Kindness Tree, donating gifts needed by those in the community that are sometimes forgotten or have no one to care. Thanks to Sara Fullerton for initiating this project. I am hopeful it will become an annual outreach. Your care and active support of our **AlQasseMatte refugee family** in Turkey was perhaps the greatest encouragement to them and the FAIR Hearts group. The FAIR Hearts group and the refugee family members struggled to remain positive and hopeful while they were dealing with health issues in the family and also receiving disappointment after disappointment in their immigration process to come to Canada. This is still a work in progress and needs much prayer!

Even though we couldn’t do much singing together, Session sanctioned choir **practices** following covid protocols. With changing regulations and increased active cases, practices became sporadic and infrequent. Bravo! to our music director, Lloyd MacLean, for his persistence and encouragement! Just because we couldn’t sing, it didn’t prevent us from hosting a remarkable organ concert, taping, videoing and editing a remarkable Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing, and hosting the New Glasgow Music Festival’s musical theatre and vocal classes.

Session hosted Pictou Presbytery’s meeting in September when Rev. MacDonald was inducted as Moderator of Presbytery. Good luck! Rev. Andrew! We also hosted **guest speakers** Sinan Al Shaltan, who spoke of his experiences in Iraq before immigrating to Canada with his parents, and Chief Andrea Paul, Pictou Landing First Nations, who spoke of her personal life experiences related to family members association with residential schools.

We celebrated the usual liturgical and special services at Easter, our 235th Anniversary Service, Thanksgiving Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, the first government sanctioned Truth and Reconciliation Day and Christmas services. Unfortunately, they all were not able to be held in person. December 21, Session made the very difficult and disappointing decision to cancel the in-person Christmas Eve service due to the rapidly rising daily hospitalizations and covid cases in the province. Rev Andrew, Lloyd, the Alcorn's and their extended family, the scripture readers, the vocalists and candle lighters scheduled to take part in the service all worked together to separately record their part in the service and offered an on-line service that was next to the best thing to actually being there! A great effort in such a short time to put it all together!

Session is beyond words thankful to God for: the diligence and ongoing care of the reopening team, the congregation’s support and uncomplaining efforts to abide by all the regulations and changes needed to stay as safe as we could, those stepping forward to help the reopening team with ushering, Rev. Andrew, Lloyd MacLean and our support staff, Jane Taylor, Michael Fraser and Brenda Tutty, the tech team of Michael Fraser and Keith MacDonald for running the projector and overhead screen during worship, to Dave Johnstone, Gary Ross, Brent MacQuarrie and Chet Flemming for manning the sound board and mic checks. Hope your heart surgery recovery is progressing well Dave! and Mark Thibeau and Larry MacLeod for running the video camera for online posting of services, those who decorated the sanctuary in all the liturgical seasons of the church year, those in the choir who committed to practicing and leading the music in worship when we were able, scripture readers, the many guest singers and musicians who enriched our worship experience, and for all the behind-the-scenes care, support, talents and gifts offered that may be known only to God … The ministry we do together is a tangible example of Christ’s love alive in the world today. THANKS BE TO GOD!

I know the number of people in the pews is less than we are used to. We would love to welcome more new and familiar faces to First! I imagine when we read the financial report at the Annual Meeting, we will probably be operating at a significant financial deficit. I know it may be easy to feel frustrated, throw up our hands and cry, “how? and how much longer are we going to be able to carry on? “But look at how much we have accomplished together in a pandemic year that was closed down or restricted probably more times than we were able to gather or do things in person! So many “firsts”! I know the church will survive! The church was Jesus’ idea, not ours! It will survive our missteps and whatever cultural trends happen around us. Surprise!! … We don’t always get things right! but Christ has an incredible history of pulling together Christians in every generation to share his love for a broken world. The covid virus will not last forever, but I don’t think it is finished with us just yet! However, this too, I know. As we make our way through difficult days ahead, remember we are not alone and that we are a community of faith, in ministry together.

God Bless us all,

Sharon Mason, Clerk of Session

**MEMBERS OF SESSION – 2021**

**Moderator:** Rev. Andrew S. MacDonald (began March 3, 2019)

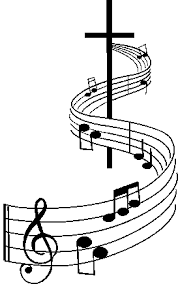
**Clerk of Session** Sharon Mason

**Deputy Clerk:** Larry MacLeod

**Representative Elder:** Gary Ross

**Alternate Rep. Elder:** Larry Ingham

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Active Elders by year of Ordination:**  Donald Johnstone (1973)  Russell MacIntosh (1977)  Larry MacLeod (1984)  Larry Ingham (1992)  Joan MacIntosh (1992)  Kent Williams (1992)  Clarice Campbell (1999)  Pheobe Fraser (1999)  Keith MacDonald (1999)  Brent MacQuarrie (1992 & 1999)  Sharon Mason (2005)  John Zinck (2005)  Keith Cruickshank (2005)  Teela Billington (2013) (2020-21-On sick leave)  Cathy Lewis (2013)  Gary Ross (2013)  Mark Thibeau (2013)  Lynn Simpson (2021) | **Inactive Elders: by their year of Ordination:**  Alvin Sinclair (1966)  Wilfred Marshall (1977)  Ralph Foote (1977)  Leroy Taylor (1984)  Phillip Avery (1985)  Bob Kowalski (1990)  Ray Webster (1992)  Norman MacLeod (1995)  Sandy MacIntosh (1999)  Bill Mason (1999)  Jack Marshall (2005)  Jamie Stewart (2013)  **Elder Emeritus:**  Gordon MacNeil (1995) – Died 2017  Elder: Ken Rector (1999) – Died 2020 |



**2021 – CHOIR REPORT**

Due to COVID 19, the choir was mostly inactive for the year. When services resumed after summer vacation, we had soloists, duets but no choir practice.

We made out annual donation to the Music Festival and were saddened to lose one of our valued members, Berma Marshall. We welcome new members any time.

Our officers are:

President - Teela Billington

Treasurer - Shirley MacDonald

Secretary - Emma Campbell

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Campbell

Secretary

**CHOIR FINANCIAL REPORT**

Balance on Jan. 1, 2021 $1,416.24

**Receipts**:

Donations 50.00

Interest .12 50.12

1,466.36

**Expenses**:

Music Festival 50.00

Gift 60.00

Service charge 7.50 117.50

Balance on hand as of December 31, 2021 $1,348.86

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley MacDonald, Treasurer



**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS – 2021**

Due to Covid this year, Circle of Friends did not participate in their normal functions, Soup and Dessert luncheons, funeral catering, etc. Hopefully 2022 will be a healthier year.

We fondly remember our fellow member and friend, Berma Marshall, who passed away May 2021.

FINANCIAL:

Balance as of January 1, 2021. $4.15

Balance December 31, 2021. $4.15

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Johnstone

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH &**

**ST. ANDREW’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (KIRK)**

**COORDINATION TEAM**

MEMBERS:

Clarice Campbell – Feb. 2023

Sharon Mason – Feb. 2024

Mark Thibeau – Feb. 2025

(No report for 2021)

**MISSION, OUTRACH & HOSPITALITY**

**COMMITTEE REPORT – 2021**

No meetings were held this year, and no hospitality functions due to Covid. Any outreach that was given was directed individually or by those who are Elders.

Members are:

Clarice Campbell

Teela Billington

Keith Cruickshank

Shirley Cruickshank

Marilyn Johnstone

Edna Fraser

Jean McComb

Sheila Dempster.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarice Campbell

**FAIR HEARTS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021**

FAIR Hearts (Friends Assisting Iraqi Refugees) is a volunteer community organization formed in 2020 for the purpose of sponsoring the AlQassMatte family to come to live in Pictou County. This is a Christian family of 6 comprised of 2 parents, two adult daughters, and one younger daughter and one young son. They were forced to flee their native Iraq 8 years ago due to the invasion by ISIS during the Syrian War, and have been refugees living in Istanbul, Turkey for the past eight years.

First Presbyterian Church is the charitable organization affiliated with FAIR Hearts and is able to issue tax receipts for donations. Members of FAIR Hearts from the congregation are: Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Sharon Mason, Sara Fullerton and Brent MacQuarrie.

A number of donations of furnishings and household goods were received during 2021 and the church has agreed to allow storage of these items in the Lower Hall nursery space until the family arrives. Due to the generosity of congregation members and members of the community, we now have all the needed furniture and household items for the family. Once the family arrives new bed linens, pillows and perhaps some kitchen items may need to be purchased.

During 2021, a number of fund-raising events were held, such as 50-50 draws, online auctions, chili lunches, yard sales, etc. Through these fund raising events and the generous donations from the congregation and others in the community, FAIR Hearts raised $20,636 this year. In 2020, we raised $13,028, therefore we are very close to our required fund-raising goal of $35,000. The members of FAIR Hearts are extremely grateful for all donations, monetary and otherwise, to this important initiative.

In January 2022, the AlQassMatte family was interviewed by Canadian Immigration in Ankara, Turkey. We are very pleased that they have been recently approved to come to Canada. There are several more steps that need to take place before they can depart for Canada, such as medicals being completed for each family member, passports being issued and transportation arrangements by the Canadian government, among other things. There is no timeframe for these next steps, but FAIR Hearts remains hopeful that these things will happen soon. Upon arrival in our community, FAIR Hearts will continue to play a vital role in supporting the family by assisting them in finding a place to live, becoming familiar with our community, enrolling the children in school, assisting them in any other ways needed, including adjusting to life in Canada.

Submitted by Sara Fullerton and Brent MacQuarrie

**CATHERINE MAIR AUXILIARY OF THE ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY**

There were no meetings of the Catherine Mair Atlantic Mission Society in 2021 due to COVID 19.

Current officers are:

President - Phoebe Fraser

Secretary - Teela Billington

Treasurer - Emma Campbell

Message Secretary - Teela Billington

Respectfully submitted,

Phoebe Fraser

President

**CATHERINE MAIR A.M.S. – FINANCIAL REPORT**

December 31, 2020 - Bank Balance $ 00.00

Offerings $ 107.00

In memoriums 60.00 167.00

Sept. 12 - sent to Pictou Presbytery 167.00

December 31, 2021 - Bank Balance $ Nil

Submitted by Emma Campbell

**CATHERINE MAIR A.M.S. – WORKING FUND**

Dec. 2020 balance $43.15

Sept. 20 Loose 10.00 53.15

Balance $53.15

**DELITSO “BLESSINGS” FUND**

Dec. 2020 balance $42.00

Feb. and March donations 25.00

Mar – Rec’d from Greg Reid AMS 79.25 146.25

Sept. 7 – Send to Pictou Presbyterian 146.25

Dec. 31/21 Balance $00.00

**THE ‘MESSAGE” FUND**

Oct., Nov. & Dec. Loose offerings 23.00

Transfer from Working Fund 52.00

Balance 75.00

Sent to Pictou Presbytery 75.00

Balance 00.00

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Campbell, Treasurer

**BOARD OF MANAGERS ANNUAL REPORT - 2021**

The Board of Managers met six times in 2021 with an average attendance of eight members. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, there were no fund raisers held in 2021, however, we did support and help set up for the Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing.

Maintenance and Repairs:

~  boilers were checked and adjusted

~ Sanctuary doors were removed, sanded down and rehung

~ a new lawn mower was purchased with half the cost donated

~ new speakers were purchased

~ speakers were installed at the back of the Sanctuary

~ the sound system was moved into the Sanctuary

~ a cabinet to cover the sound system was built by Andrew Alcorn

~ a computer was hooked up in the choir loft by Lloyd MacLean

~ the electric piano was moved into the choir loft

~ the emergency lights were checked and repaired

~ a new first aid kit was purchased for the church

~ the railings at James St. entrance have been repaired

~ the James St. doors were adjusted by Pictou County Glass

~ the window in the minister’s office was repaired

~ a new light fixture for the minister’s door was donated and

   installed by Jack Lewis

~ four chestnut trees were removed on James St. by GP Forestry

Thank you to Michael Fraser for trimming the shrubs and maintaining the property.

We have had another challenging year, hopefully, there will be brighter days ahead in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Savage, Secretary

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC REPORT 2021**

During this past year, the Worship and Music Team met on a monthly basis with the exception of July/August when the church was either closed or persons were off on normal vacation leaves. Another year of unwelcomed uncertainty due to Covid 19 made a return to regular church activities a difficult goal to achieve.

That being said, much discussion focused on thoughts and ideas on how to address the worship and music issues of our congregation. We were able to benefit from the musical talents of several local guest singers during regular worship services as our choir was not able to sing in accordance with covid 19 protocols. Thanks to our Organist in this regard as such musical voids were not always an easy task to address.

During the year, a Virtual Memorial Hymn Sing Concert under the guidance of our Organist Lloyd and Andrew Alcorn was held in April. This event proved not only to be a wonderful musical experience but a welcomed boost to church s finances. In August, a concert featuring the incredible talents of Barnkopf (organ) and Lucyk (soprano) was held in the sanctuary.

Considerable effort was directed to the improvement of our sound system in the church sanctuary during the year. This included the movement of the soundboard into the rear of the sanctuary, the purchase of two new speakers and a new soundboard cabinet. The latter was wonderfully crafted by Andrew Alcorn and all these changes together, have greatly enhanced the overall quality and distribution of sound in the sanctuary.

Reverend Andrew continued to record and distribute the sermons via You Tube, thus ensuring members of the congregation access to church messages and an awareness of church activities. In late October, the church choir did resume practicing and singing during Sunday service although self distancing along with masking continued to present a challenge.

Advent and the lead up services to Christmas saw a beautifully decorated sanctuary including the addition of a “Tree of Kindness”. The Tree with several hanging gift suggestions offered congregation members the opportunity to assist needy people in the local area.The idea generated a great response and many thanks are directed to Sara and Brent as well as all the helpers who made the effort a worthwhile and a true success.

The “normal”Christmas Eve Service was scheduled but regrettably postponed due to the rapidly expanding Omicron virus as were all the following services up until the new year. Fortunately, the last minute efforts of Minister and volunteers produced a much appreciated You tube Christmas Eve Service .

I wish to thank all members of the Worship and Music Team for their continued good work and also the paid staff/volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Ross, Chair

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INSURANCE COVERAGE OVERVIEW**

December 15, 2021 to December 15, 2022

**Business Insurance/Business Interruption**

Limit of Liability Property of every description $ 4,388,248

Basis of settlement actual cash value/annual aggregate $ 4,388,248

Deductible per occurrence $ 2,500 (varies)

**Machinery Breakdown**

Limit of liability per accident $ 4,388,248

Deductible per accident $ 2,500

**Crime Insurance**

Limit of liability any one loss Varies by type

Deductible each and every loss Nil

**Commercial and General Liability**

Limit of liability per occurrence Varies by type

with aggregate $ 5,000,000

Deductible per claim/occurrence (varies) $ 1,000

**Abuse Coverage**

Limit of liability bodily injury & civil defense cost $ 2,000,000

per occurrence/annual aggregate

Deductible Nil

**Directors and Officer Liability**

Limit of liability per claim/annual aggregate $ 2,000,000

Deductible per claim $ 5,000

**Cyber Incident Expense**

Limit of liability per occurrence/annual aggregate $ 25,000.00

**Statement of Values**

Building $ 3,463,112

Stained glass 329,972

Contents 311,082

Organ 284,082

**Total $ 4,388,248**

Note: Several policy sections have varying limits of liability coverage and deductibles. For coverage detail, the policy should be referenced.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Ross, Chairman

Auditor's Report

I have reviewed the balance sheet of first Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2021 , and the statements of revenue and expenditures for the year then ended including the

Statements of the Board of Trustees. My review consisted primarily of enquiry,

analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Church.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently. I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

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Trenton. N.S. March 2.2022

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