

**2020
Thamesview
United
Church
Annual
Report**



PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2021
MINISTER: REVEREND NANCY KNOWLES

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Minister's Letter

It has been quite the year, has it not? Last year at this time we worried that we might not be able to celebrate Easter together.....and today we're hopeful that Thanksgiving 2021 will be held inside our sanctuary. Funny how a year changes so much.

And yet, we are still the same family of faith. Worshipping differently, serving differently....but still a community of God's people who have found new ways to 'gather', to support and care for each other, and to serve God in our community. Who knew that we could learn to be so technical ...or at least enough to watch YouTube...so quickly?

And while we still don't know exactly when we'll be able to gather together again in person, we do know that it WILL happen....and what a day that's gonna' be! I can picture it now...the smiles, the hugs, the singing, the joy...the food! The time when we will tell the stories of how God saw us through difficult days... how the Lord gave us strength and peace when we felt discouraged and anxious...how Christ was able to use us to encourage and help those around us to cope with a difficult situation. You see, it has been a year when God has still moved among us...and continues to do so. We have still been a light of hope and support, and have received that light from one another. We have supported the ongoing work of God through Thamesview with faithful giving, constant support and humble service. I want to personally thank you for your calls, cards, emails, texts, prayers, and words of encouragement during this time. And I would be remiss to not give my sincere thanks to Rod and Carolyn and Kate, without whose tremendous gifts and generosity we could not do our weekly services. My thanks to Phil and Bev for their work, and to the members of our committees and Council. What a joy it has been to see the work of the church still carried out in meaningful and positive ways by all these volunteers.

As you read the reports and summaries of the various committees and groups, be sure to take time to thank God for all that has been done, is being done, and what WILL be done in our church. Continue to pray for the committee leaders and volunteers as you read through their reports. Take the time to thank them for their service and continue to pray for them as they continue to lead, and seek God's will for Thamesview. Even in this uncertain time, let us hold fast to each other, strengthen and pray for one another, and continue to strive to be a true family of God's children, and Christ's disciples.

Rev. Nancy

2020 STATISTICS

The Statistics in this annual report is the ministry offered by Thamesview United Church and occurs in the Church or by the incumbent Minister on behalf of the congregation.

Total Membership 311

Resident membership	<u>246</u>	Non-resident membership	<u>65</u>
Active Members:	178	Permanent NR:	45
Inactive Members:	68	Temporary NR:	13
		Homebound Members:	7

NOTED:

Total Families: 161	6 Baptisms
48 Active Adherents	0 Confirmations
40 Kidsview (Sunday School)	1 Weddings membership
28 Youth (Grade 7- High school including confirmed youth)	0 Funerals
13 Nursery Roll	0 Deaths

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- 2 Re-instated to TUC Resident Roll from Permanently Removed
 - 6 Removed permanently from TUC Resident Roll (still member of UCC)
 - 1 Transfer Requested

Baptisms: 6

January 12, 2020	Kyla Elizabeth Harper-Kraemer daughter of Travis Harper-Kraemer & Samantha Brown
October 10, 2020	Cohen James Siemon son of James and Jennifer (Walkom) Siemon
December 6, 2020	Logan Addison Shute son of Brendan Shute and Jillian Greb
December 13, 2020	Emma Michelle Walkom daughter of Joe Walkom and Shannon McKone
December 20, 2020	Clyde Franklin Harris son of Dean and Hannah (Skinner) Harris
December 20, 2020	Ava Sally Johns daughter of Trevor and Christina Johns

Weddings: 1

September 12 2020	Jerrett Skinner and Chelsey Terpstra
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0 Deaths / Funerals

ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE

It is a pleasure to be able to connect with all of you. I am Tim Shute, and for the past two years it has been my pleasure to act as Chair of Church Council. It is hard to believe that it is almost a year ago that we decided to cancel church for one or two Sundays because of this virus that we were hearing about. And here we are still eagerly waiting for that time when it will be safe to gather together in person to worship God in our beautiful sanctuary. Church council and all of our hard working committees have continued to hold monthly meetings virtually to plan and support the hard work that Rev. Nancy has been doing to keep all of us engaged and worshipping from our homes. So thank you Nancy, and also thanks to Rod for sharing your music and photography talents, and to Carolyn Clark for her technical production skills to make our weekly services available on You Tube.

Because of the dedication of the people on our church committees many of our traditional worship and outreach projects conducted throughout the year were able to be completed in one form or another. Thanks to all of you for helping to keep our church strong and vibrant in the community.

In conclusion I want to acknowledge and thank our entire Thamesview Church Family for your continued financial support. I believe our community is a much better place because of the strength of our church family. When Covid 19 is finally behind us we are going to CELEBRATE!!

Respectfully submitted by Council Chair: Tim Shute

Thamesview United Church Council Members: Sally Johns (Vice Chair), Lloyd Walkom (Past Chair), Jean Stevenson (Secretary) and Ex-Officio: Rev Nancy Knowles

CANADIAN FOODGRAIN BANK –COMMUNITY GROWING PROJECT

After strong support from committee members and our community the 2020 Foodgrains project was a success. Land was supplied by Thomas Skinner with help from Leroy and Bonnie Skinner. Seed and chemicals were sourced by Bar-B-Dee farms and Integrity Crop Services and supplied by Hoegy's Farm Supply of Brodhagen. Bar-B-Dee donated planting and Integrity Crop Services donated spraying services and Sylvite of Mitchell custom applied the fertilizer. Also donated were harvesting by BaseLine Agri-Services Inc.-Brett Shute and trucking to Bar-B-Dee Farms by Thomas Skinner and Bob Harris. The committee wishes to thank Ron & Nancy Kraemer for guidance and picture taking. The project netted \$12,949.74 which was sent to Winnipeg late November 2020.

Committee Members-Larry Bertens, Larry Gray, Bob Harris, Bob Hutson, Ron Kraemer, Blyth Lannin, Perry Lealess, Winston Jibb, Harry Norris, Tim Shute.

2020 Foodgrains Financial Report

Expenses:	Agricorp Crop Insurance	\$ 97.47
	Sylvite Fertilizer	<u>\$ 1 470.99</u>
	Total	\$ 1 568.46
Income:	Donations	\$ 3 310.00
	Soybean sales	<u>\$11 208.20</u>
	Total	\$14 518.20
	Net Income:	\$ 12 949.74

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As of March 2020 we were unable to have Sunday School (Kidsview) due to the closures caused by the pandemic. Due to other commitments at this time Jen Morris resigned as CE coordinator in August- we thank her for her dedication and commitment that she gave. In September we met as a group to brainstorm new ways of reaching the younger members of our congregation. It was decided to try online Kidsview so cards were sent to the families of children in our congregation both to say "Hi" from the committee and to inform them of the plans. On Sept. 20, 2020 E-Kidsview was launched online thanks to the wonderful leadership of Rev Nancy and the great computer skills of Carolyn Clark. Each week an email is sent with two video links: an introduction by one of our committee and a lesson with a craft (pdf attachment) for the children..

Our committee helped with the tour of the new sanctuary, which looks beautiful, and it was great to connect with congregation members. We also had a Thanksgiving craft to hand out to families during the tour.

We were unable to have the annual Christmas Children's Shopping Spree but were able to coordinate with the Worship Committee's poinsettia sale to have a cheese (Stonetown Cheese) and chocolate (Sugar and Spice) fundraiser which again allowed us to connect with congregation members.

We look forward to the time when we can have in-church classes again but until that time we will continue with E- Kidsview. Thank you to Jen Barr, who has gone off this committee, for her dedication and commitment - we loved having you.

Submitted by Sandy Kreis, Chairperson

Members: Jacquelyn Heckman, Nancy Norris, Irene Gettler and Ex-Officio: Rev Nancy Knowles

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

A committee was formed in 2018 with the goal to raise funds to help pay the cost of maintenance work in the sanctuary & stairwells. At the time, the estimated cost of this work on the ceiling, walls, pews and floor along with some electrical upgrades was \$175 000.00. As a committee, we immediately realized that it would be difficult to raise that amount as our congregation had recently supported another huge renovation project to improve accessibility to our beloved church. Yet, we started planning with the thought that every penny counts! The fundraising events and a financial report from June 2018 to December 2020 is on page 17.

In the end, all costs of this recent work, better known as the "Peeling Ceiling" project, have been paid. It would not have been possible without the support of the generous & hardworking Thamesview congregation and all nearby communities!

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting. -Elizabeth Bibesco

Respectfully submitted by the TUC Fundraising Committee- Bob Hutson (chair), Ellen Shute, Karen Ballard, Bonnie Skinner, Kevin Melanson, Bev Walkom, Tim Shute and Ex-officio: Rev. Nancy Knowles

IN AND OUT COMMITTEE

Thamesview has once again overwhelmed the Outreach Committee with their generosity throughout the year 2020. The Thanksgiving Food Drive filled our vehicle with food and gift cards that were delivered to the Mitchell Food Bank.

At Christmas time we filled two large boxes with hats, mitts, socks, gift cards and toiletries for Shelterlink Stratford (for homeless youth). We also delivered two large full boxes to Optimism Place Stratford (shelter for abused women and their family) We know our congregation cannot come together to worship in our beautiful sanctuary, but their love and support to our community keeps Thamesview alive and strong.

Submitted by Committee Chair: Carolyn Harris

Committee Members: Karen Ballard, Sandra Kemp, Harry Norris, and Ex-officio: Rev. Nancy Knowles

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

2020 Annual Report for TUC Membership Committee:

- Feb. 16, 2020 -All committee members met at TUC to plan our annual Crokinole/family games night at TUC. The event was scheduled for the evening of March 19, 2020. Unfortunately, following our first planning session everything shut down in March due to COVID, so event was cancelled.
- May 30, 2020 -After much on-line planning and many members working to gather equipment and plants, we held a perennial plant sale in the parking lot at TUC. This event saw all of our members present as well as other helpers for the better part of this cold and windy but successful fundraising day.
- Sept. 9, 2020 -Committee members met in person in the CE room at TUC to discuss any upcoming events. We all had a short tour of the newly decorated sanctuary following our meeting. Plans were made to help with the Congregational tour of the sanctuary planned for Oct. 3rd and 4th.
- Oct. 3 and 4, 2020 - Several committee members were present and helped to register, guide and accept donations as Congregational members viewed our completed Sanctuary.
- Oct. 31, 2020 -Committee members met in the CE room at TUC to discuss and advise on the Membership roll.
- Dec. 11, 2020 -Committee members gathered with TUC people in the CE room to help sort and organize the poinsettias, cheese and chocolates for the Christmas fundraiser event. Some members were also present on the 12th and 13th to help distribute these items at the time of pick up.

Committee: Alissa Dearing, Janet Good (Chair), Cathy Hutson (Secretary), Sandy Kreis

Ex Officio: Office Administrator: Carolyn Clark and Rev Nancy Knowles

MENS MINISTRIES REPORT

The TUC Men's Ministries Committee was created a few years ago to inspire men in nearby communities to take action and help others in need. The foundation of successful Men's Ministries is building relationships. Events attract men, relationships make them stay.

No large events were organized in 2020 due to community health restrictions. However, men from our congregation, with the help of many others, diligently worked many evenings and weekends for several months to help complete the "Peeling Ceiling" work on the ceiling, walls, floor & pews in the sanctuary.

Now, we are all waiting to see what direction the pandemic pushes us in the days ahead. No matter what is placed in front of us, we will always be available to help where there's a need in our church and in our communities. We appreciate all who have supported us in the past year!

My Daily Prayer

*If I can do some good today,
If I can serve along life's way,
If I can something helpful say,
Lord, show me how.
If I can right a human wrong,
If I can help to make one strong,
If I can cheer with smile and song,
Lord, show me how.
If I can aid one in distress,
If I can make a burden less,
If I can spread more happiness,
Lord, show me how.
-Grenville Kleiser-*

Respectfully submitted by- TUC Men's Ministries Committee- Bob Hutson (chair), Reg Reed

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We have been fortunate at Thamesview United Church that all of our staff have been safe and healthy during the past trying and difficult pandemic year. We are also fortunate that there has been very little change of personnel.

The only change has been the resignation of Jennifer Morris as Christian Education Coordinator. At this point, that position has not been filled. The C.E. Committee is assuming Jennifer's responsibilities. I would like to thank Jennifer for her commitment over the past several years and wish her all the best with her future endeavors. Our staff is as printed on the page 2. We are very fortunate to have these people as our staff. Our committee completed the annual reviews with the staff in the autumn, and we thank them again for their service.

I have enjoyed serving on this committee for the past four years. I would like to thank committee members Laura Good, Leah McNain, and Lloyd Walkom for their time and efforts. It has been a great experience working with them as well as the staff.

Respectfully submitted by Committee Chairperson: Reg Reed Committee: Laura Good, Leah McNain & Lloyd Walkom

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

As I am sitting here thinking about how to write about the year 2020 to the Property and Building Maintenance Committee, I can't say anything other than it was a huge success. Even though we can't see the sanctuary every Sunday, it is complete and looks fantastic.

Here is a list of everything that took place;

- the lead paint was removed.
- the ceiling and walls were painted.
- the 5 original lights were rebuilt and the pot lights were replaced with added above the platform at the front of the sanctuary.
- the platform was slightly modified
- the floor was sanded and re-stained.
- new carpet was installed in the walk ways, on the stage, and in the choir loft.

A project well done. I can't thank all the volunteers enough for all the help that they contributed in the completion of the sanctuary.

Looking forward to 2021 and beyond, our committee is looking at the exterior of the building. Starting this year, we are implementing a 5 to 6 year plan to repair various parts of the exterior of our building. The plan for 2021 is to repoint the brick on the north wall. It is in the roughest condition and where we are focusing our immediate attention. Then for the four years after that, we will continue with similar projects.

As everyone knows, building maintenance is never done. Our church deserves it!

Respectfully submitted by Committee Chair: Scott Kemp

Members: Brett Dearing, Brock Shute, Leroy Skinner and Ex Officio: Custodian: Beverley Haynes

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE

2020 has been a year of many challenges, frustrations and learning opportunities to say the least amidst the wake of the Global Pandemic (Covid 19). Just prior to the complete lockdown in March 2020 we had started and were committed to a complete Sanctuary refurbishing (Peeling Ceiling) campaign long overdue. Not knowing what lay ahead, we started listening closely to The United Church General Council for some direction and guidance, sitting in on many Webinars and Zoom meetings to search out our emergency financial options if needed. We were eligible for financial assistance from a couple of programs and, with the help of all our Thamesview Family, we kept the church financially stable and finished paying for the sanctuary restoration by October. The 2020 Budget was aggressive at best and we soon realised it was not going to help guide us through the year. We continued our Finance and Council meetings by way of Zoom and tried to keep council well informed on the financial picture as it unfolded during the year. We fell slightly short of our projected M&S goal of 8000.00. Presbytery fees (currently WOW) have been waved for the time being. I can't stress enough how much we rely on your financial generosity and I am truly a believer that when times get tough the tough get going and Thamesview does exactly that. P.A.R. (Pre authorized Remittance Program) is a program we highly encourage people to consider, we currently have 22 families using this program.

We thank Phillip Dow for his work and patience in keeping everyone up to date on our financial status. We are especially thankful for Rev. Nancy and for her support now and in the future as we slowly get past this pandemic.

Note: 2020 Thamesview Financial Reports will be emailed or available for pick up prior to the virtual annual meeting and added as an amendment.

Respectfully submitted by Committee Chair / Secretary: Ellen Shute

Committee Members: Lorraine Babb, Bev Walkom, Lisa Mardlin-Vandewalle and Ex Officio: Treasurer: Phillip Dow

TRUSTEE REPORT

Your trustees have had a quiet year as you may have guessed. However, we did work closely with Scott Kemp and the Property Committee with the sanctuary update and a big thank you to them for all the other issues that Scott in particular deals with. Glad to report our water testing remains up to date as well as the elevator maintenance. Thanks for our leadership team for leading us through a difficult year.

Respectfully submitted by Chair of Trustees: John McIntosh

Members: Bev Walkom, Leroy Skinner, Nancy Norris and Gary Kemp

THAMESVIEW U.C.W. REPORT

The more we get together, together, together, the more we get together the happier we will be. For your God is my God and my God is your God. We need to continue to encourage each other as we Journey along. We are thankful so many donated to our Fall Thanksgiving offering so we are able to support M&S and Foodgrains. We look forward to when the Thamesview Congregation will be back together, and our UCW will be ready to go!

Thanks to Rev. Nancy, Rod and Carolyn for preparing Sunday Worship and for Nancy being in contact with us every day. UCW Financial Report is on page 18.

Respectively submitted: Co-Chairs- Carolyn Harris and Mary McIntosh, Secretary- Barbara Jefferson, Treasurer- Eileen Morris and always encouraging us, Nancy Kraemer.

VISITATION COMMITTEE

This past year the Visitation committee members have been making many phone calls to those on the visitation list, as actual in-person visits have been restricted by Covid-19. The members have also been reaching out to others within the community and church congregation.

We have been working to remember the special occasions of our members- such as birthdays, anniversaries and new babies, with phone calls, cards and emails.

In December the Worship Committee made up "goodie bags", which our members distributed, along with the Daily Bread magazines, wishing people well with drive-way visits.

Anyone wishing a visit or phone call from Rev. Nancy please call her cell #: 1-519-788-5819 or email: nancyknowles0@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Committee Chair- Bonnie Lealess

Committee: Kim Ahrens, Bonnie Harmer, Carolyn Harris, Anne Marie Heckman, Laurel Laughton, Mary McIntosh, Mary Ross and Michelle Willows. Ex-Officio: Rev Nancy Knowles

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Psalm 100:2

Some years it’s difficult to tell one annual report from another. That’s not the case this year. December 31, 2019 seems like a long time ago; the day the pews, banners and furnishings were removed from the Sanctuary for the Paint the Peeling Ceiling project.

We squeezed into the Christian Education room on the lower level until March 8. Little did we know that would be the last in-person worship service in 2020. Adhering to pandemic protocols, worship services began on the Thamesview YouTube Channel on March 22. We are grateful for Rev. Nancy’s courage and creativity to try something new, the boundless talent of Rod Culham and the enthusiasm of everyone who contributed. Carolyn Clark went above and beyond the call of duty to learn new technology. These online services would not have happened without these three incredible people. We are blessed!

The worship services are available starting at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings. On average, more people “attend” throughout the week than our traditional Sunday morning in-person services and many people beyond our congregation are tuning in. Our building may be closed, but God’s children are still congregating in spirit. Thanks be to God!

Several times through the year, the worship committee and council thoughtfully and prayerfully considered returning to worship but like many congregations, we opted to be cautious, to think of others ahead of ourselves and to delay. In May, the worship committee prepared a draft document with protocols for returning to in-person worship, based on information from United Church of Canada and Huron Perth Health Unit. We will worship in person again and we will sing Halleluiah!

Respectfully submitted by Committee Chair: Kate Monk

Committee: Anne Marie Heckman, Sally Johns, Laurel Laughton, Donna Melanson, Kate Monk, Stephanie Shute, Lori Skinner

Ex-officio: Rev. Nancy Knowles and Rod Culham -Music Director

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS (W.O.W.) REGION REPORT

Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) has had a challenging year. It has endeavoured to communicate by e-mail on a monthly basis. We did not “Zoom” into the fall meeting but Nancy and Kate did. We thank you for the privilege of serving as your regional council representatives.

Respectfully submitted by WOW Representatives: Dave and Eleanor Williams

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council is a decision-making body to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and to provide necessary oversight. The purpose statement of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council is ‘Connecting, Supporting, Transforming’. The regional council’s priorities are: Governance and Shared Services as well as Mission and Ministry.

The WOWRC is composed of all ministry personnel within its geographic bounds; ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call; and lay members elected by the Communities of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible. It includes the counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth and Wellington along with the western portion of Simcoe County and the Regional

Municipality of Kitchener-Waterloo and is pleased to serve alongside the Indigenous ministries of Cape Croker United Church and Wesley United Church, Saugeen.

Rev. Nancy Knowles and Kate Monk attended the online annual Regional Council meeting October 15-18, 2020. Rev. Gary Clark continues to serve as president until 2021. Rev. Mark Laird of the Drayton Pastoral Charge is President-Elect. President Gary's theme for the meeting was "Honey from the Rock" drawn from Psalm 81:11 where God's care is expressed with this powerfully imagery. The theme was woven through the reports and the worship services.

With little more a year under its belt, WOWRC faced with the pandemic and the need for new ways to meet its mandate. Meetings were switched to online, and staff worked from their homes. Fortunately in 2019, the region's online presence was developed including a website (wowrucucc.ca) and Facebook page. Webinars and online resources have been valuable with documents and toolkits for congregations, ministry personnel and congregational leaders. Anyone can download information from the website, subscribe to the monthly newsletters and follow on Facebook. <https://wowrucucc.ca>

CAMP BIMINI REPORT

CAMP BIMINI : OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that Camp Bimini is a place where God's creation comes together with respect for each other and the environment. It is our goal to give every child and youth a camping experience where they feel loved and valued for who they are. We strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually and create lifelong friendships.

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campbimini@cyg.net www.campbimini.ca @campbimini

2020 has been an interesting year for Camp Bimini. Like many, we were faced with many challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic measures forced camp to close – no rentals, no school programs, no summer camp, and no events. We had an 80% loss of operating income with 40% of expenses remaining.

With our deep thanks to many people, we have succeeded in several ways.

Bimini Connects virtual camp was conceived to offer an alternative camp experience and connect to our camper families. We knew camp would be missed and there was genuine concern for the mental health of our campers. Our three-person staff worked diligently and faithfully to create, cast, produce, film and broadcast eight weeks of virtual camp program. They were supported by numerous counsellors, Bimini alumni and several adult volunteers. These people enthusiastically lead camp songs and graces, sessions (cooking, crafts, nature sports, CE, music), story time, meditation, worship and campfires. This generated a new social media presence for Camp Bimini on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, reaching out to share our camp and spread our ministry, with some participating from Saskatchewan! Financial grants from Stratford-Perth Community Foundation (Covid-19 Emergency Fund) and United Church of Canada Seeds of Hope Grant (Wesley C Smith Fund) assisted with covering costs involved.

Fundraising efforts in 2020 were heightened and put into action. The May fundraising Bottle Drive was an overwhelming success bringing in over \$11,000! Thanks to all who collected and helped. The August Walkathon was also tremendously successful raising over \$18,800. Again, an astonishing response! Participants were nation-wide with the 'walk where you are' platform.

Camp Bimini utilized the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for the months we qualified and Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan to address payroll, property and maintenance fixed costs. We wish to extend deep appreciation to our many generous donors who donated financially to assist us through this time. We had a great response to our appeal for donations from our community surrounding us. It is humbling to know how loved Bimini is by our community, alumni, families and friends. Support has been phenomenal from volunteer time and talent to valued financial contributions. Bimini is truly treasured and blessed!

Creating a legacy through a bequest in your will or other planned gift such as a charitable annuity or a gift of life insurance is a simple and thoughtful act that reflects your commitment to Camp Bimini, your concern for future generations, and your love for the camping world. The best part of planned giving is that you have the comfort of knowing that you have provided for the future of something you care about very dearly. A successful planned giving program can help to fulfill our inherent desire to give. One of the real blessings of planned giving is that it benefits both the giver and the recipient. For more information, please contact the camp.

We began an Alternate Gift idea for people to give as gifts for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and more. Please see our website for more details. We also started a FlipGive team. FlipGive is an online platform that lets your team earn cash back for things you are already buying. Shop in store (by purchasing gift cards) or online through FlipGive and a percentage of your purchase will be deposited directly into Camp Bimini's team account. There are hundreds of stores and restaurants that offer cash back through FlipGive, including amazon.ca, Swiss Chalet, Esso, Old Navy, GAP, Tim Hortons, Indigo and MUCH MORE! To join Camp Bimini's FlipGive Team, just go to www.flipgive.com or download the FlipGive app. Create a new account by signing up, then select "Join Team," enter our team code: GGFPDQ and shop away! It's an easy way to financially support Camp Bimini in these uncertain times!

The Camp Bimini board is moving forward with plans for the 2021 season but we are uncertain what that will look like. We have faced the challenges of 2020 with sacrifice, setbacks and numerous successes. The Camp Bimini board members are optimistic, and the camp is in a solid position to plan ahead for whatever 2021 brings. Stay tuned for fundraising events and ways you can help.

This year taught us a lot about ourselves and about leadership. It has taught us a lot about faith. 2020 stretched us more than we ever thought and more than some were comfortable with BUT we learned a lot and are coming out stronger.

We are blessed to have a great community around us—people like you. We thank every one of our supporters: those who support us physically, spiritually, emotionally and financially. Your support is important and invaluable. It was with this strong support that we were able to survive this year.

Carol Young, Camp Bimini Coordinator

Golda Wilson, Camp Bimini Board Chair

THAMESVIEW UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES 2020

March 1, 2020 - 12:30 p.m.
Christian Education Room

Copies of the Agenda and the Nominating Committee report were passed out.

Sally Johns called the Annual Meeting to order and thanked everyone for bringing food for the potluck lunch and for staying for the meeting. She thanked Carolyn Clark for the video that was played during lunch, showing church events from 2019.

A video featuring photos of members who had passed away in 2019 was viewed. There was a moment of silence and remembrance. Carolyn Clark was thanked for compiling the video.

Sally opened the meeting with prayer.

Nominations for secretary and Chair were declared open.

MOTION by Leroy Skinner / seconded by Scott Kemp to nominate Jean Stevenson as secretary.

Nominations declared closed.

Motion to nominate secretary carried.

MOTION by Bruce Norris / seconded by Bob Hutson to nominate Tim Shute as Chair.

Nominations declared closed.

Motion to nominate Chair carried.

The meeting was passed over to Tim Shute.

Tim thanked Sally Johns and Carolyn Clark.

Agenda:

There was a call for additions to the agenda. There were none.

MOTION by Dave Williams / seconded by Mary McIntosh to accept the agenda as printed. Motion Carried.

Voting:

MOTION by Sandra Kemp / seconded by Sally Johns that all present be allowed to vote at the congregational meeting, except when dealing with 'the Spiritual interests' of the Pastoral Charge, in which case only members with full membership may vote. Motion Carried.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting:

MOTION by John McIntosh / seconded by Sandy Kreis to accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Business arising: Dave Williams asked about the "Inactive Members" in the Membership numbers. This will be addressed with the Statistics.

Reports

Acceptance of the Reports

**MOTION by Mary McIntosh / seconded by Carolyn Clark that there be a single motion to receive all reports presented.
Motion Carried.**

1. Minister's page – as printed.
2. Statistics – Regarding the designation of Active versus Inactive members: Active members are those who participate in church activities, services or donate financially; Inactive members are two years without being part of the church. Inactive members can be removed from the resident roll but there is always an attempt to contact them before doing so. The membership roll hasn't been reviewed recently and this is a project for the coming year.
3. Administrative Executive – as printed.
4. Foodgrains – as printed.
5. Foodgrains Finance – as printed.
6. Christian Education Committee – as printed.
7. Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council – as printed. This is the new region that replaced Huron-Perth Presbytery.
8. Men's Ministries – as printed.
9. Ministry and Personnel – as printed. The church is fortunate to have this group of staff and the committee also thanks the congregation for the support they give to the staff.
10. Membership – as printed.
11. Visitation – as printed.
12. Worship – as printed.
13. Property and Building Maintenance – Scott Kemp was asked to give an overview of what the Property committee has been working on.

Preparation for painting of the sanctuary was ongoing through 2019 and thanks to everyone who provided support for this project, financial and otherwise.

Last year the committee also examined the increasing heat and hydro rates and, after finding several possible issues, they are continuing to work on this.

Looking ahead to the future, now that the sanctuary project is underway, they are going to turn their attention of the outside of the church. The committee has made a five-year plan of projects – brick repointing, windows, soffit and fascia, eavestroughs. They are also working on a 3-5 year inspection/maintenance schedule for the slate roof.

Also particular thanks to John McIntosh for help with the maintenance work and calls regarding the lift.

14. In and Outreach – as printed.
15. Stewardship and Finance – as printed.
16. Trustees – as printed. Thanks to Scott and the Property committee for all their work.
17. Fundraising – Bob Hutson spoke on behalf of the committee. The congregation has been asked to contribute substantially over the last few years in order to make the church accessible and beautiful. We are not at the final goal yet, but we are getting closer thanks to Rev. Nancy and the congregation.
18. UCW – as printed.
19. UCW Funeral Committee – as printed.
20. UCW Financial – as reported. The books have been examined by John McIntosh.