

OWEN SOUND ALLIANCE CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

REFLECTING ON THE
GOODNESS OF GOD
IN 2023



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AGENDA

Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, April 21, 2024 @ 12:30pm
Owen Sound Alliance Church

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 7, 2023
3. Adoption of Tellers
4. Adoption of Reports
 - Financial Reports
 - Nominating Committee
 - All other Reports
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Time of Prayer
7. Election of New Elders
8. Election of Nominating Committee Members for 2025
9. Break
10. Report of the Tellers
11. Prayer and Adjournment

MINUTES

OWEN SOUND ALLIANCE CHURCH
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
 held at
 Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Sunday, May 7 2023 at 12:30 pm

1. **Welcome and Prayer**

2. **Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum**

The meeting was duly called to order at 12:30pm by Chair, Terry Bartley, with a quorum of 72 members present in-person. The meeting was declared properly constituted.

3. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved that the Agenda for the meeting be adopted.

Seconded and Carried

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved that the minutes of the May 15, 2022 Annual Meeting be adopted with no errors or omissions noted.

Seconded and Carried

5. **Adoption of Tellers**

Moved to appoint Jamie Lyman and John Davis to act as tellers.

Seconded and Carried

6. **Adoption of Reports**

Moved that the Financial Report, prepared by Clark Accounting Inc. for the 2022 fiscal year be adopted.

Seconded

Discussion

- Request to have footnote on headings in financial statement that are not self explanatory
- Some questions on purpose of items in the statements and the budget i.e. cash on hand, building fund. These were explained by Dave Marshall.

Carried

Moved that the Nominating Committee Report, and all other reports of Owen Sound Alliance Church for 2022 be adopted.

Seconded

Nominating Committee Report:

The three people who were named by the Committee for the 2023 election were: Rita Bevan, Kevin Howell and Mary Ann MacDonald. Each candidate must receive a majority of the ballots cast.

A few ministry reports were highlighted verbally by their ministry leads:

- Carol Seaman gave a verbal update of the Prayers and Squares ministry.
- Dave & Andy Foster gave an update on the Arden Language Centre's ESL program and how some students are coming to Christ.
- Hannah Carroll gave an update on the refugee families that are being sponsored, as approved by the Board of Elders: 15 sponsored in the past; 8 more in process.

Discussion

- Question on how to designate to the refugee families was asked. Two funds available: Refugee Fund and Future Refugee Fund.

Carried

7. **Appointment of Auditor**
Moved that Martin Clark of Clark Accounting Inc. be appointed as auditor until the next Annual Meeting.
Seconded and Carried
8. **Time of Prayer**
9. **Election of Elders**
Ballots were distributed, and collected by the tellers.
10. **Election of Two Members to the 2024 Nominating Committee**
Nominations from the floor were Brian Hewgill and Diana Caldwell.

Moved to close nominations.
Seconded and Carried

Moved to forgo the ballot voting method and acclaim Brian Hewgill and Diana Caldwell to the Nominating Committee for 2024.
Seconded and Carried

Voting was held by show of hands.
11. **Break**
12. **Report of the Tellers Regarding Election of Elders**
The following were elected by to serve a 3 year term (2023 - 2026):
Rita Bevan, Kevin Howell, Mary Ann MacDonald.

Moved to destroy the ballots
Seconded and Carried
8. **Prayer and Adjournment**
There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Paul MacDonald at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul MacDonald,
Secretary
Board of Elders

Dear Friends,

It is amazing to think the documents in this report represent the 99th year of church ministry. Really, that is astounding. And no one has been present for all of those years, only the Lord. Which means at least two things: (1) it has been him all along; and (2) we steward an inherited legacy, rich as it is.

I am grateful to the authors of these reports who - along with their teams - bear witness to what the Lord did in 2023. As we read, would the Spirit fill us with wonder, that God would call us to himself and establish us in community; would we abound in thanksgiving; and would we be strengthened in our faith to complete the work that remains. As we joyfully remember what Jesus is doing among the people who gather at 440 7th Ave East, we are joyfully aware that He is working every place else around the globe.

It seems so much of kingdom work is just the steady, daily, consistent, faithful working of God's people. The overwhelming majority of that work is under-the-radar and under-celebrated. But the Lord sees it. That said, a few select 2023 highlights:

- The great joy we experienced as the Fosters and Howells were sent to the middle-east and Senegal respectively, with three memorable (tearful!) parking lot farewells in the summer and early fall.
- Kristen joining our staff team in the role of Kids Sunday Program Coordinator. It has been a privilege to work alongside her as she supports our team of Sunday school teachers who, in turn, fearlessly and creatively share the gospel with the young ones in our family.
- The triple ordination of Rev. Joel McCallum, Rev. Nick Kennedy, and Rev. Kim Lobbezoo towards the end of the year.
- The challenge and fun of working through the book of Ecclesiastes over 12 weeks of preaching.

If you remember, the author of Ecclesiastes reminded us many times that so much is "meaningless," which can mean fleeting or temporary. But, friends, life with you is *meaningful*, and I am grateful that we experienced that together this past year. And what's more, I believe the Lord's work of preaching the gospel and being his people will have a lasting, permanent, *eternal* impact.

To God be the glory, and would he bless our dear church.

OPERATIONS

BOARD OF ELDERS

Written by: Terry Bartley, Chair

As you read these reports you may find yourself saying, “Wow, OSAC folk are involved in a lot of ministry and Kingdom efforts.” It is with joy that your Elders get to serve among so many outward looking teams and individuals. As we hear about activities and receive updates, where you are blessing others and sharing Jesus, we are encouraged in our service to God and this Kingdom outpost.

We have so many opportunities for prayer at OSAC. Your Board of Elders has been happy to respond to those who call upon us for prayer. It is our privilege to pray at a distance for some or come in person to others. The Elders want you to know it is our honour to pray for you, and we welcome your prayer requests. James encourages us in James 5: 13-15 to call upon the Elders for prayer.

At the monthly meetings, the Elders always receive certain reports and sometimes receive others less frequently. The financial and Senior Pastor's reports are two we always receive. The Finance Committee members do the heavy lifting when it comes to preparation of the budget for the Elder's budget deliberations, and we so appreciate their work. The 2023 year ended with a small surplus. The Elders review the church finances at each meeting and make adjustments as necessary during the year. We appreciate the congregation's generosity.

This was our first full year to work alongside Ryan Tudor as our Senior Pastor. It is our privilege to receive Pastor Tudor's ministry report at each board meeting. The Board, and so many others at OSAC, have reported a strong working relationship with our Pastor. Our Senior Pastor's review highlighted his passionate love for God, that he is a caring shepherd of our church family, and is an insightful and authentic leader. We encourage you to pray for him, his family and other leaders that the God of hope would fill them with joy, peace, trust and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (see Romans 15:13).

Three Elders will be leaving the board this year: Rita Bevan, Jim Cunningham and Greg Farrow. These three Elders have a great love for God and this church, have each served in special ways, and each will be missed. Thank you for your service on the Elder's Board and OSAC.

We hope you will take time to read all these reports and let each encourage your service to Christ.

OPERATIONS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Elders is comprised of nine members in addition to the Senior Pastor who is a member ex-officio. Elders serve for a three (3) year term with three (3) Board Members elected annually. A maximum of two (2) full consecutive three (3) year terms of office may be served by an Elder and, upon the expiration of which, the Elder shall not be eligible for re-election until he or she has been absent from the Board for one (1) year.

The process in seeking God's chosen leaders for Owen Sound Alliance Church requires earnest prayer, spiritual discernment, and dialogue with the nominees.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of two elected members at the Annual Meeting held on May 7, 2023 and two appointed members of the Board of Elders, has finalized its selection of nominees to fill all three (3) vacancies on the Board of Elders.

We are pleased to report the following:

NEW ELDER NOMINEES:

John Davis
Donna Jansen
Cliff Moody

Continuing Elders:

| 2022 – 2025 | 2023 - 2026 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Terry Bartley | Kevin Howell |
| Martha Carroll | Mary Ann MacDonald |
| Larry Parkin | |
| Tim Wood | |

Pastor Ryan Tudor
(Ex-Officio)

Elders Concluding Service:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Jim Cunningham | <i>(2021 – 2024)</i> |
| Greg Farrow | <i>(2021 – 2024)</i> |
| Rita Bevan | <i>(2023 – 2024)</i> |

According to our Constitution, new Elder nominees shall be elected by the Voting Membership of the church by ballot vote at the Annual Meeting of Members, to be held on April 21, 2024. In order to be elected to the Board, nominees must receive at least a majority of the ballots cast.

A summary of the role and Biblical qualifications of elders is available at the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

Rev. Ryan Tudor (Chair)
Rita Bevan
Greg Farrow
Diana Caldwell
Brian Hewgill

OPERATIONS

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Written by: Diana Caldwell, Librarian

Although there were still a handful of our congregation using the Library, because the usage of the space and finances could be better served in other ways, it was decided to close it down in its present form and to dispose of the majority of the books. The remaining books are now in a new space in the front foyer for borrowing on a self-serve basis.

I have loved serving you during all the years (20 plus) I facilitated the use of our resources, to encourage growth in the faith, to challenge others with books they might not have read otherwise, and most of all to listen and pray as you shared your joys and concerns.

In the service of the King with you.

OPERATIONS

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Written by: John Davis, Chair and Rev. Greg Musselman

In 2023 there were a few key improvements made to the building. These included the replacement of two ductless a/c walls units in the balcony, the lower auditorium was painted, the rear three rows of pews in the sanctuary were replaced with chairs, lighting throughout the building continued to be updated to LED, new child/baby change stations were installed on walls, and work began in our children's wing to update washrooms. In the fall of 2023 the Elders approved a proposed plan by the Property Team for significant building improvements in 2024, including a new main level barrier free washroom and fellowship space in the former library and Sr. Pastor's office area, and updates to the youth and nursery spaces.

Our regular contracts continued in 2023 with Glen Catto Snow Removal and Bill Bell Lawn Care, who were entrusted to look after the snow clearing of our parking lot and sidewalks in the winter, and the lawns and trees in the summer. Georgian Bay Fire & Safety inspected and monitored the safety of our building, along with the yearly building inspection by the City of Owen Sound Fire Department.

As we look to 2024 our Property Team is excited at the opportunities ahead to partner together with those in our congregation who are handy or would like to learn, and will joyfully steward this building, finances and the physical talents God has provided, all for His glory!

Our 2023 Property Team consisted of John Davis (chair), Jim Cunningham and Pastor Greg Musselman. We anticipate growing the team in 2024! We are thankful for our support staff who invest in regular building care and maintenance, our Custodians Brenda Aktins and Luc Lyman, and Administrative Assistant, Allyson Adams.

OPERATIONS

BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE

Written by: Lisa Lambkin, Chair

Romans 15: 5-6 says "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is with this Christ-like attitude that the Benevolent Committee, on behalf of Owen Sound Alliance Church (OSAC), is able to provide assistance to those in need. The fund has helped people from within the church and many in the larger community with food, utility bills, shelter and medical care. We do not give out cash but rather pay service providers directly.

Requests for assistance are submitted in writing and the Committee members then consider the policy and prayerfully decide how we can help the individuals and families. Encouragement and prayer are provided to each person and financial help is given accordingly. Often, we direct people to community resources that can offer further assistance. All requests are held in strict confidentiality.

During 2023, OSAC received fewer benevolent requests than usual but still gave over \$12,800 in assistance. We continue to give \$300/month each to OSHaRE and the Salvation Army Food Bank for a total of \$7,200. The fund helped two people receive much needed dental care. Other individuals received grocery gift cards to help feed their families. At Christmas time, \$5,000 was distributed in grocery gift cards to 26 families/individuals within our OSAC family.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

It is an honour to serve on this committee and offer tangible help to people in Christ's name. I would like to express deep gratitude to Ian Mitchell, who led the Benevolent Committee for several years. Ian stepped down in December 2023 and we wish Ian and his family many blessings. Thank you to Cheryl Davis, Cindie Holm and Seth Koehler for their dedication, faithfully serving on this committee and providing wisdom with their unique gifts. And much appreciation goes out to Allyson Adams who receives each request with compassion and processes payments with care and attention to detail.

Thank you, OSAC family for your generous giving to this vital ministry.

OPERATIONS

TREASURER

Written by: Rita Bevan, Treasurer

As we, at Owen Sound Alliance Church, look to celebrate our one-hundred-year anniversary in 2024, I believe it is truly fitting for us to give thanks to God for his bountiful provision year after year. We have indeed been the benefactors of God's faithful supply and the generosity of his people, and 2023 was no different. God is faithful!

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:24

The overall giving (general and missions) was up over 3.5% on the year to \$834,849, and we closed the year with a surplus of \$17,769. At the beginning of the year, we had budgeted for a deficit of \$81,658, but our expenses came in lower than anticipated, some of which are ongoing building updates yet to be completed.

As we plan for the year ahead, we are excited to have so many new faces in our midst and additions to our church family. As we enjoy this season of growth, we continue to make the necessary provisions for all the relevant ministries. What a joy to see so many children and youth attend.

I would like to express my appreciation to all those involved in keeping the finances of the church running on a weekly basis. Thank you to Audrey Unger, Envelope Recording Secretary for her countless volunteer hours, and to Allyson Adams for her work each week to make sure that the church bills and expenses are being looked after. I also appreciate the work that Mike Seamen does to keep our accounting up to date. Thank you also to Martin Clark who compiles our financial statements.

*Don't forget to do good. Don't forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings.
Hebrews 13:16*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Owen Sound Alliance Church

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited – See Notice to Reader)

Owen Sound Alliance Church

Financial Statements

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For the Year Ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited – See Notice to Reader)

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Black Box Consultancy Services Inc.

Martin T. Clark, Chartered Professional Accountant
347 9th Street East,
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5P5
Telephone (519) 376-7585

Compilation Engagement Report

On the basis of information provided by management I have compiled the Balance Sheet of the Owen Sound Alliance Church as at December 31, 2023 and the General Fund Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Surplus for the year then ended and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information.

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Owen Sound, Ontario
March 7, 2024


Chartered Professional Accountant

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Balance Sheet
 As at December 31, 2023

| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash | 206,641 | 178,104 |
| Promissory Note with CCD of C&MA | 450,000 | 450,000 |
| HST Receivable | 6,488 | 4,635 |
| Total Current Assets | <u>663,129</u> | <u>632,739</u> |
| Capital Assets | | |
| Land | 73,383 | 73,383 |
| Building | 1,083,736 | 1,083,736 |
| Total Capital Assets | <u>1,157,119</u> | <u>1,157,119</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>1,820,248</u> | <u>1,789,858</u> |
| Liabilities and Surplus | | |
| Accounts Payable | | - |
| Accrued Liabilities | 1,000 | - |
| | <u>1,000</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Surplus | | |
| Designated | 232,036 | 220,415 |
| General | 1,587,212 | 1,569,443 |
| | <u>1,819,248</u> | <u>1,789,858</u> |
| Total Liabilities and Surplus | <u>1,820,248</u> | <u>1,789,858</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Statement of General Surplus
 For the year ended December 31, 2023

| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Opening, January 1 | 1,569,443 | 1,614,261 |
| Net increase (decrease) in General Surplus | 17,769 | (44,818) |
| Closing Balance General Surplus December 31 | <u>1,587,212</u> | <u>1,569,443</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Statement of Designated Surplus
 For the year ended December 31, 2023

| Designated Surplus | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Building Fund | 58,527 | 55,118 |
| Benevolent | 4,602 | 6,153 |
| Anna Pyles Scholarship Fund | 55,154 | 54,049 |
| ESL Operations | 537 | 1,051 |
| Short Term Missions | 3,322 | 3,322 |
| Short Term Missions Indonesia | 803 | 1,665 |
| Short Term Missions Guatemala | 3,456 | 2,836 |
| Short Term Missions Ecuador | 3,494 | |
| Short Term Missions Senegal | 300 | |
| Refugee Family | 27,231 | 23,801 |
| Future Refugee Family | 28,129 | 23,866 |
| Food Grains Bank | 42,780 | 44,973 |
| Celebrate Recovery | 1,756 | 1,756 |
| Camp Assistance | 1,945 | 1,825 |
| Closing Balance, December 31 | <u>232,036</u> | <u>220,415</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - General Fund
 For the year ended December 31, 2023

| | <u>Budget 2023</u> | <u>Actual 2023</u> | <u>Actual 2022</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Receipts | | | |
| Offerings | 585,308 | 577,419 | 567,510 |
| Bank Interest | 8,000 | 16,321 | 10,094 |
| Facility Rental | 600 | 765 | 1,841 |
| Bequests | - | - | 90,000 |
| Total Receipts | <u>593,908</u> | <u>594,505</u> | <u>669,445</u> |
| Expenses by Ministry Team | | | |
| Operations | | | |
| Personnel | 483,756 | 422,089 | 532,230 |
| Admin & Office | 47,150 | 39,766 | 40,795 |
| Property | 77,300 | 64,322 | 101,198 |
| Lay Leadership | 3,800 | 808 | 1,904 |
| Kingdom Partnerships | 1,790 | 1,372 | 1,512 |
| Library | 420 | 241 | 184 |
| Field Missions Local | 1,380 | 6,326 | 636 |
| Children & Family Ministry | 14,325 | 8,682 | 7,684 |
| Student Ministry | 12,675 | 10,010 | 7,038 |
| Adult Ministry | 4,090 | 1,788 | 327 |
| Gathering Ministry | 17,260 | 13,660 | 13,448 |
| Community Connections | 2,950 | 1,474 | 1,125 |
| Teaching/Training Ministry | 7,230 | 5,530 | 3,588 |
| Home Groups | 1,440 | 668 | 2,594 |
| Total Expenses | <u>675,566</u> | <u>576,736</u> | <u>714,263</u> |
| Net Income (Deficit) | <u>(81,658)</u> | <u>17,769</u> | <u>(44,818)</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Statement of Receipts and Disbursements - Missions
 For the year ended December 31, 2023

| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Receipts | 136,044 | 93,568 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Global Advance | 107,739 | 69,523 |
| Jaffray Project | 1,000 | - |
| Gary and Sharon Partner Fund | 5,290 | 4,405 |
| Bill and Ilana Partner Fund | | 145 |
| Liz Lavoie Partner Fund | 1,048 | 4,339 |
| Liz Lavoie Kid's In Crisis | 6,202 | 3,235 |
| Mike and Nikki Apprentice Fund | 11,740 | 6,135 |
| Global Emergency Response | 2,825 | 5,786 |
| Kim Lobbezoo Partner Fund | 200 | - |
| | - | - |
| | <u>136,044</u> | <u>93,568</u> |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
 Designated Offerings
 For the year ended December 31, 2023

| Designated Offerings | Opening Balance | Receipts | Payments | Closing Balance |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Missions | - | 136,044 | 136,044 | - |
| Canadian Ministries | - | 11,666 | 11,666 | - |
| Building Fund | 55,118 | 3,409 | - | 58,527 |
| Benevolent Fund | 6,153 | 11,164 | 12,715 | 4,602 |
| Anna Pyles Scholarship | 54,049 | 5,105 | 4,000 | 55,154 |
| ESL Operations | 1,051 | 13,560 | 14,074 | 537 |
| Ambrose University Support | - | 885 | 885 | - |
| Short Term Missions | 3,322 | | | 3,322 |
| Short Term Missions Indonesia | 1,665 | 3,860 | 4,722 | 803 |
| Short Term Missions Guatemala | 2,836 | 7,469 | 6,849 | 3,456 |
| Short Term Missions Ecuador | | 4,777 | 1,283 | 3,494 |
| Short Term Missions Senegal | | 300 | - | 300 |
| Refugee Family | 23,801 | 3,430 | - | 27,231 |
| Future Refugee Family | 23,866 | 4,263 | - | 28,129 |
| Pioneers Canada Foster's | - | 5,623 | 5,623 | - |
| Pregnancy Centre | 0 | 40 | 40 | - |
| Xchange Ministry | - | 1,531 | 1,531 | - |
| Food Grains Bank | 44,973 | 44,184 | 46,377 | 42,780 |
| Celebrate Recovery | 1,756 | - | - | 1,756 |
| Camp Scholarship | 1,825 | 120 | - | 1,945 |
| | <u>220,415</u> | <u>257,430</u> | <u>245,809</u> | <u>232,036</u> |

Owen Sound Alliance Church
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2023.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are reported in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for non profit organizations.

Accrual Accounting

The receipts and disbursements of the organization are recorded when they are incurred rather than when they are received or paid.

Capital Assets

The capital assets are recorded at cost.

Owen Sound Alliance Church Operating Budget 2024 with 2023 comparative **FINAL**

| | Budget 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 | Actual 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023 | BUDGET 2024 | 2024 Budget vs 2023 Budget variances |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Revenue | | | | |
| General Fund Donations | 585,308.00 | 577,418.95 | 595,000.00 | 9,692 |
| Interest | 8,000.00 | 16,321.23 | 40,000.00 | 32,000 |
| Facility Rental | 600.00 | 765.00 | 765.00 | 165 |
| Bequests | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Total Revenue | 593,908.00 | 594,505.18 | 635,765.00 | 41,857 |
| EXPENSE | | | | |
| Operations | | | | |
| PERSONNEL | | | | |
| Pastor's Salaries | 263,280.00 | 217,709.21 | 238,708.00 | (24,572) |
| Support Staff Salaries | 99,712.00 | 110,521.67 | 113,527.00 | 13,815 |
| Support/Service Contracts | 13,064.00 | 7,550.00 | 8,064.00 | (5,000) |
| Staff Benefits | 83,000.00 | 77,263.10 | 88,000.00 | 5,000 |
| Ministry Exp. (Sr. Pastor) | 1,000.00 | 762.04 | 1,000.00 | - |
| Ministry Exp. (Child./Fam. Pastor) | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Ministry Exp. (Student Pastor) | 500.00 | 166.36 | 500.00 | - |
| Ministry Exp. (Worship Arts Pastor) | 500.00 | 219.75 | 500.00 | - |
| Ministry Exp. (Executive Pastor) | 500.00 | 297.43 | 500.00 | - |
| Edu. & Training (Sr. Pastor) | 500.00 | 396.92 | 250.00 | (250) |
| Edu. & Training (Child/Fam. Pastor) | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Edu. & Training (Student Pastor) | 500.00 | 275.33 | 1,700.00 | 1,200 |
| Edu. & Training (Worship Arts Pastor) | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Edu. & Training (Executive Pastor) | 500.00 | 20.67 | 250.00 | (250) |
| Mileage (Sr. Pastor) | 500.00 | 231.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Mileage (Child./Fam. Pastor) | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Mileage (Student Pastor) | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Mileage (Worship Arts Pastor) | 500.00 | 20.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Mileage (Executive Pastor) | 500.00 | 485.00 | 500.00 | - |
| Subscriptions | 200.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | (200) |
| C&MA Conferences | 8,000.00 | 5,502.14 | 8,550.00 | 550 |
| Misc. Staff Expenses | 500.00 | 481.17 | 1,300.00 | 800 |
| Staff Team Building | 1,500.00 | 187.12 | 800.00 | (700) |
| Candidating | 6,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | (6,500) |
| Interns/Assistants Positions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 16,000.00 | 16,000 |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL | 483,756.00 | 422,088.91 | 483,649.00 | (107) |
| ADMINISTRATION & OFFICE | | | | |
| Finance & Contingency | 27,200.00 | 27,070.38 | 33,550.00 | 6,350 |
| Office Supplies | 12,650.00 | 8,059.32 | 12,650.00 | - |
| Office Equipment minor | 3,500.00 | 779.98 | 3,500.00 | - |
| Office Equipment Maintenance | 3,000.00 | 3,856.68 | 3,200.00 | 200 |
| Advertising | 800.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 | - |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & OFFICE | 47,150.00 | 39,766.36 | 53,700.00 | 6,550 |
| PROPERTY | | | | |
| Custodial Supplies | 4,300.00 | 3,126.73 | 5,000.00 | 700 |
| Extra Custodial Services | 300.00 | 319.00 | 300.00 | - |
| Kitchen Equipment | 600.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 | - |
| Utilities | 16,000.00 | 18,572.63 | 16,000.00 | - |
| General Repairs & Maintenance | 26,100.00 | 23,665.28 | 27,100.00 | 1,000 |
| Replacement/Improvements EXPENSES | 30,000.00 | 18,638.07 | 0.00 | (30,000) |
| TOTAL PROPERTY | 77,300.00 | 64,321.71 | 49,000.00 | (28,300) |
| Lay Leadership | 3,800.00 | 807.68 | 3,850.00 | 50 |
| Kingdom Partnerships | 1,790.00 | 1,372.32 | 1,840.00 | 50 |
| Resource Centre/Library | 420.00 | 241.12 | 300.00 | (120) |
| Total Operations | 614,216.00 | 528,598.10 | 592,339.00 | (21,877) |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Children & Family Ministries | | | | |
| Sunday Ministry | 7,700.00 | 7,088.99 | 6,600.00 | (1,100) |
| Children's Outreach/Seasonal | 4,250.00 | 648.19 | 3,700.00 | (550) |
| Children's Library | 575.00 | 579.00 | 775.00 | 200 |
| Family Ministries | 1,000.00 | 366.31 | 2,000.00 | 1,000 |
| Team Development | 800.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 | (200) |
| Total Children & Family Ministries | 14,325.00 | 8,682.49 | 13,675.00 | (650) |
| Student Ministries | | | | |
| Jr. Youth | 6,125.00 | 3,166.97 | 10,250.00 | 4,125 |
| Sr. Youth | 5,300.00 | 5,038.06 | 10,010.00 | 4,710 |
| Sr/Jr Joint Events | 0.00 | 1,550.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Equipment | 200.00 | 20.98 | 200.00 | - |
| Team Development | 1,050.00 | 234.36 | 1,500.00 | 450 |
| Total Student Ministries | 12,675.00 | 10,010.37 | 21,960.00 | 9,285 |
| Gathering Ministries | | | | |
| Audio/Media | 3,095.00 | 1,906.73 | 2,825.00 | (270) |
| Music | 5,295.00 | 2,952.63 | 3,895.00 | (1,400) |
| Services/Special Events | 5,270.00 | 4,651.82 | 7,420.00 | 2,150 |
| Hospitality | 3,000.00 | 3,937.44 | 3,800.00 | 800 |
| Prayer | 0.00 | 92.68 | 0.00 | - |
| Team Development | 600.00 | 118.83 | 600.00 | - |
| Total Gathering Ministries | 17,260.00 | 13,660.13 | 18,540.00 | 1,280 |
| Teaching & Training | | | | |
| Resources | 2,830.00 | 2,537.01 | 3,500.00 | 670 |
| Women's Ministries | 1,000.00 | 663.05 | 1,000.00 | - |
| Men's Ministries | 1,000.00 | 874.33 | 1,000.00 | - |
| Marriage Ministries | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | - |
| Alpha | 2,000.00 | 1,455.61 | 2,500.00 | 500 |
| Leadership Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Total Teaching & Training | 7,230.00 | 5,530.00 | 8,400.00 | 1,170 |
| Adult Ministries | | | | |
| Young Adults | 1,150.00 | 719.35 | 1,700.00 | 550 |
| Adults | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 | - |
| Seniors | 1,590.00 | 852.31 | 1,875.00 | 285 |
| Visitation | 950.00 | 215.91 | 1,000.00 | - |
| Team Development | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Total Adult Ministries | 4,090.00 | 1,787.57 | 4,975.00 | 885 |
| Community Connections | | | | |
| Community Connections | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | - |
| Baby Love Baskets | 1,000.00 | 282.11 | 900.00 | (100) |
| Prayers & Squares | 1,000.00 | 540.56 | 1,150.00 | 150 |
| Student Care Packages | 750.00 | 651.24 | 755.00 | 5 |
| Total Community Connections | 2,950.00 | 1,473.91 | 3,005.00 | 55 |
| Small Groups | | | | |
| HG Resources | 1,440.00 | 667.56 | 1,000.00 | (440) |
| Total HomeGroups | 1,440.00 | 667.56 | 1,000.00 | (440) |
| Field Team | | | | |
| Missions (Admin) | 1,380.00 | 6,325.93 | 13,380.00 | 12,000 |
| Total Field Team | 1,380.00 | 6,325.93 | 13,380.00 | 12,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 675,566.00 | 576,736.06 | 677,274.00 | 1,708 |
| NET INCOME | (81,658.00) | 17,769.12 | (41,509.00) | 40,149 |

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Written by: Rev. Kim Lobbezoo, Ministry Apprentice

As we look back on 2023, we are encouraged to see how God has been at work in the children's ministry at Owen Sound Alliance Church, and how he has blessed us with many new faces, these new faces being children, teachers and helpers, and leaders.

Josie McCallum and I co-led the children's ministry together until late January, when Pastor Joel and Josie welcomed their third child. I led children's ministry from January until August, with support from Pastor Ryan and Pastor Greg. In August, Angie Lyman stepped into the role of Plan to Protect trainer, and the coordinator for the volunteers, working hard to equip teachers and helpers about safety for everyone involved in children's ministry. Kristen Salisbury joined our team as the Kids Sunday Morning Program Coordinator in September, while I moved into the role of assisting her until November.

Towards the end of the year, a family ministries team was brought together, led by Pastor Greg, and comprising of Kristen Salisbury, Angie Lyman, and Pastor Nick. This team continues to oversee children and youth ministry at OSAC. Our 56ers ministry continued to run monthly from January to June of 2023, led by Pastor Nick and Pastor Ryan. This year, we were blessed to have many of the youth, mobilized by Pastor Nick, serve as leaders in the children's ministry. Our Moms and Tots has continued to run through the year 2023. This ministry, led by Loni Carroll, has created important space for fellowship and ministry to moms and their little ones.

Although we did not run a Vacation Bible School this year, we tried a new summer program called *OSAC Kids Summer Adventures*, which sought to bring a summer camp feeling to summer Sunday mornings. Summer Adventures operated with a focus on sharing with the children how we get to take part in God's great story through PLAY, CREATE, and ACT. These themes served as three different streams that children could choose between, which included games led by super fun coaches, creative activities led by talented visual and culinary artists, and theatre activities led by myself. In each of these streams, children had the chance to learn about God's Word through the lens of play, creativity, and storytelling. OSAC Kids Summer Adventures also began with a short devotional time, where kids heard Bible stories told by a fun variety of Pastors and teachers. Far from your average Bible story time, these devotional introductions included engaging stories, Rubik's cubes, and even an original song.

Our children's ministry saw significant growth this year, with an average of 70 children attending Sunday School weekly. We, as a church, had the opportunity to welcome new families, as well as welcome many newborn members to our OSAC family. This meant that for a time, our classes became very large. Thank you to our superhero teachers and helpers who continued to share God's Word in engaging ways, with groups of such large numbers. Thank you to the families for your patience as we navigated this. This growth led the children's ministry to increase the number of classes we were running, going from seven rooms to eight rooms, so as to allow for smaller class sizes.

Also part of our Children's Ministry, is the Children's Library located downstairs in the pre-school hallway, and supported and run by Gail Wood and Janine Stewart. They write:

Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." In previous years we have sometimes been discouraged about the under use of our library but 2023 has been exciting. The children who are visiting are full of joy each week and can't wait to take home something that they have selected. Over 500 items were borrowed throughout the year. Veggie Tale DVDs and Adventures in Odyssey Audio CDs continue to be popular. We added approx. 30 new items to the library in 2023. We are grateful for the support from our Church which allows us to continue to grow the library resources. We had a couple of riddle contests in 2023 and discovered that the secret to a library full of children was a candy prize.

Most of our visitors are under the age of 9 (with a few exceptions). In order to make the best use of our space and focus on the appropriate material for this age group, we are planning to do a spring clean in 2024 that will clear out items that are no longer suitable.

Thank you to our faithful volunteers, Heather Parkin and Leah Elder, and to the children and parents who visit every week with happy faces. We are so blessed to be able to serve you.

I pray 2024 will be another great year as we minister and teach all the wonderful children that attend on Sunday mornings.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Written by: Rev. Nick Kennedy, Pastor of Student Ministries

Thank you for your continued support of our Youth Ministry here at OSAC. I believe God is working through it and raising up these students for great things. I am excited for the year ahead of us, and filled with joy as I look back on what a great year of ministry 2023 was.

In early 2023 we had our first Owen Sound Youth Rally, which went really well and started us down the path of making this a regular event. We planned one more rally in June of 2023, and are now working to find a date to run one in 2024. The Sr. High students went to Campfire Bible Camp near Markdale for the Deeper Life Retreat 2023, and it was a massive success. It was the first year that Deeper Life (an Alliance run event) became a full weekend retreat and we couldn't be happier with how it turned out. We filled that camp to capacity and have now locked in Muskoka Bible Centre as the location for Deeper Life 2024. We also held a wonderful graduation event for our grade 12 students and prayed for them as they took the next steps in their lives.

Over the summer we held a few events, the biggest one being a beach day for Jr. and Sr. High students where we had one student baptized in Lake Huron, and later we were able to have all the students lay hands and pray for the Foster girls before they and their parents moved overseas. Another successful Serve and Stay event happened in the fall, with the students doing a great job serving at the Fun Day on the Farm and having a ton of fun that evening at Sauble Beach. We took the Sr. High students to Change Conference 2023 where KB (a Christian hip hop artist) headlined on the Friday night. We had great conversations with students following this conference, with many students and leaders agreeing that it was even better than the previous year. The Jr. High students were taken to Muskoka Woods for Bedlam in the fall, and it was a fantastic event. The conversations in the small groups often lasted close to an hour with kids asking questions and engaging in the material. The worship band for the weekend was our very own Sr. High worship band, and I had the honour of preaching Saturday and Sunday at the retreat.

Through the last twelve months we have seen some changes to our leadership team. We said goodbye to a few long time volunteers, and welcomed in three new ones. These volunteers give it their all every week, loving and leading our students. We have a volunteer base that desires to see kids come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. So when you see a youth leader, please say thank you to them for discipling this generation of students.

We are so excited to see what God has in store for our students in 2024, and in the years to come. Thank you church for all of your support, and I hope you know how deeply I cherish it.

WORSHIP ARTS & ADULT MINISTRIES

Written by: Rev. Joel McCallum, Pastor of Worship Arts and Adult Ministries

WORSHIP ARTS

This has been a great year of seeing God's faithfulness in our church and in our worship ministry. Our worship ministry continued to grow in many ways and we made some great changes that have begun to help our volunteers prepare better and avoid some areas of frustration.

One area where God has encouraged me to grow is by building leadership teams that speak into the vision and direction of the areas I oversee. We have started a Worship Planning Team that consists of our worship leaders and key team members that have met a few times to discern where God is leading our worship ministry and where we desire to grow. This has been a huge blessing to me! I value the opinions and diversity of our team and I think our worship ministry is better because of this team. One of the biggest decisions we've made is to make our song repertoire for Sunday mornings smaller to help our worship team volunteers practise better. With fewer songs, we can really nail down different parts of songs and practise more effectively. Sometimes when we would have 70+ songs we could choose from it felt like we were learning new songs every time they were played, and it was becoming more and more difficult for our volunteers to prepare with busy schedules. Familiarity also goes both ways: in one way it's better for our volunteers, but it will hopefully also lead to more familiarity for our congregation and will enable people to connect with the songs we sing more easily. As we become comfortable with our current repertoire of songs, we will expand and add new ones.

Another thing I am excited for is that Steve Fawcett will be starting a sound and media internship with our church in January of 2024. Steve has been growing in his skill on the soundboard and I think a yearlong internship will really be a blessing to Steve and our church. Steve will be our main sound person and will begin to train new sound techs with my help, but more importantly, Steve and I will meet for weekly coaching to dive into God's Word, pray together, and help Steve grow in his discipleship journey. I cannot wait to continue to see Steve grow closer to Jesus and improve our tech ministry. With Steve's new role, our decision to not continue with Gary Byers services, providing professional sound tech services, was not an easy one to make, having had him in this role for 15 years. Thank you Gary for your graciousness, all the stability, expertise, and passion you brought to our ministry, along with such enthusiastic laughter from the tech booth.

I want to say a few thank you-s to some people who have made the decision to step away from leading worship for the upcoming year. Angie Lyman and Cheryl Davis have led worship teams for many years and have blessed our church by using their gifts to lead us in worship. Thank you for being great leaders and for helping our church experience God through song.

In 2024, I look forward to more in depth training for our teams to help us grow together in our skills and desire to worship together. One great way this will happen is H2 Summit in Brampton in March. This is a one-day conference that focuses on worshipping with our heart and hands. We'll also introduce Team Nights, a time to come together and have a meal and specific training for different instruments and vocals. I can't wait to see what God will do!

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

Young Adults has been a steady ministry for the past year with Cai MacDonald planning Bible studies, sports nights, and free meals for Georgian College students. Other special events like Thanksgiving brunch and a Christmas party have been a big hit as well!

Our once-a-month meal for Georgian College students has been such a blessing for us as well as students. We were looking for a way to connect with students and meet the needs that they may have, and Cai had the idea to go on campus and bring free food for the students. This has been a great way to get to know some students and

has led to a few coming to church on Sundays. Our hope is that more meaningful connections will be made to get students involved in the life of our church.

A new ministry we hope to launch in 2024 is a “hosting” ministry where two college students can be paired with a family to have meals together, help give rides for things like grocery shopping, and help students get settled in Owen Sound. If you are interested, keep an eye out for details on how to become a host family.

We also look forward to re-connecting with our returning OSAC college and university students throughout the summer with beach volleyball. This has been a great ministry for the past two summers and we can't wait to run it again. While our OSAC college and university students are away, Gail Wood heads up our Student Care Ministry, providing them with encouragement. Thank you Gail for your part in the lives of these young adults. Gail writes:

I am in awe of the number of gifted young people who are a part of our Church. Every year a number of our youth elect to pursue a university or college education. This can be a difficult time as they seek to adjust to a new environment often without the nearness of family, friends and their home church. This ministry seeks to support our young people throughout these years by praying for them and by sending cards of encouragement a few times each year. At Christmas and Easter we also include a gift card so that they can treat themselves to a coffee or latte. This year we have 27 students away at school. They represent our future teachers, health care providers, entrepreneurs, pastors and many other professions. When they are studying late into the night we want to remind them that they serve a God who sees them, hears them, knows them and wants good things for them.

“For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the Lord,” plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

YOUNG AT HEART (OLDER ADULTS MINISTRY) written by Maggie Trimble

“Young At Heart” is an intentional ministry by, with, and for older adults over fifty-five. Older adults with their gifts, talents, wisdom, knowledge and experience can support each other as well as have great potential in assisting our church in living out our vision to impact the community so people come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

We have only just begun but 2023 was a full, fun year of fellowship and building relationships, beginning with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch. This was followed by a History of Hymns with Steve Warner, the Strawberry Social, a tour of Keppel Croft Garden and Big Bay Ice Cream, a presentation of Where There's a Will, There's a Way with Ross Thomson, a November Lunch, and a Christmas Pot Luck with carols.

For many seniors, loneliness, hopelessness, loss of dignity, and a lack of real purpose are among the primary emotional, and spiritual issues they face. For our sisters and brothers in long-term/retirement homes we visited and delivered gifts and cards at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is just a first step in reaching out to these saints more frequently to show them that their lives matter, and that they are remembered and loved by their church Family.

During 2023 over one hundred seniors in our church community participated in our activities. As we move forward into 2024 with prayer and God's leading, we are encouraged to embrace new opportunities by, with, and for our older adults, both within and without our church community.

“The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon;.....In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap.” Psalm 92:12,14.

TEACHING/TRAINING/GROUPS

Written by: Rev. Greg Musselman, Executive Pastor

2023 was a year full of experiencing God's goodness! Time and time again I saw God bless and multiply our faithful work with Him in our various discipleship spaces. As I reflect on 2023, I'm reminded of Jesus' words in *John 4:35* "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." I am so grateful for the many who invested in facilitating discipleship groups (Bible studies, small groups, home groups) and discipleship workshops (courses, support groups).

Thank you for your faithful work! To all those who did the faithful work of hosting others in their homes, organizing group outings, preparing meals, caring for each other's needs, listening and asking in faith for God to intervene. Thank you to those who stepped out in faith to start a new group or workshop, to those who carried on through various challenges. Thank you to those who shared about their discipleship group or workshop at this year's ministry fair! Thank you to those who taught Scripture and shared from their own stories of God at work. Thank you for serving with Jesus this past year, for being available for God's work!

GROUPS - (Bible studies, small groups, home groups) *Small spiritual families of about 5-30 in number, facilitated by maturing disciples of Jesus, that gather and connect regularly, with the purpose of seeing all those involved grow up in Christ (Head - to know Jesus, Heart - become like Jesus, and Hands - make Jesus known).*

Our Groups

This year we introduced the "sermon discussion guide" as requested by one of our group leaders. It was exciting to see how God used this resource to further the Sunday morning teaching in our smaller spaces. In addition to this, our groups continued to learn together through the resources of RightNow Media and other study resources. As I mentioned above, I was encouraged over and over again by spiritual heart growth in the lives of many through faithful investment. Again, 2023 saw new groups formed with the intention of seeing new disciples made and multiplied, groups have taken on various mission focuses including supporting global ministries such as the Foster family, Howells and ESL ministry and local ministries to individuals in our downtown core, homes serving as drop in spaces for kids in the community, and regular intercessory prayer for the lost.

WORKSHOPS/COURSES - (support groups, courses) - **Short** (2 - 13 weeks in length), **Need Based** (supporting individuals with specific needs) or **Developmental** (equipping leaders with tools to serve others). *Designed to serve both large and small OSAC discipleship spaces in seeing people grow up in Christ.*

Our Workshops/Courses

2023 continued to see many previous workshops and some new developments offered through OSAC. Returning workshops offered this year included Alpha, Truth & Freedom, Grief Share and the CAP Money Course. A new developmental course with the focus on mental health was started by Megan Tobin, Sierra Symons and team called the Sanctuary Course. I continue to be amazed at how God is at work! God worked through His church to share the gospel with some for the first time, to support many in Christ wrestling with the fallout of sin and hurts, discover freedom, and connect with brothers and sisters in Christ who will continue to walk with them in their battle.

WAYS TO PRAY

Pray. I know it sounds simple, but it changes things. I am convinced the growth we are experiencing (head, heart, hands) is a direct response to us asking God for the outpouring of His Spirit to transform lives! Keep praying. Pray for our group and workshop leaders, that they would grow in their relationship with Jesus, knowing their identity in Christ and out of that relationship they would have the vision to lead those entrusted to their discipleship care. Pray for children in our groups, that they too would see their group as a place to belong and grow up in! Pray for the local and global ministries our groups are called to serve in and support, that God would bring a balance of

discipleship and mission. Pray for the many new groups, developing their own identity and culture around God's leading. Pray for those called in 2024 to facilitate new groups, for courage to step out and for a clear vision of God's call. Pray for those currently not in a group who are seeking a small space to grow in Christ, for the right time and composition of the group to meet their needs.

Pray specifically for our workshop leadership teams. Pray for those they are equipping to take on new leadership. Pray for continued encouragement when attendee response is low or they are in need of more team leaders to carry the leadership needs. Pray for God to continue the work in our OSAC church culture, to teach us all to be vulnerable and teachable with our own needs. Ask that God would continue to release more individuals to serve out of their giftedness and passion in our workshops/courses teams. Pray for continued unity with the larger body of Christ at OSAC, that our small discipleship spaces would serve and support the larger mission and vision God has for OSAC.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

PRAYERS & SQUARES

Written by: Carol Seaman, Coordinator

A prayer quilt is a gift of love and encouragement for someone in need. The quilt is “tied” and each tie represents a prayer that is said for the person receiving the quilt.

You cannot just give them a quilt. First you ask if they would like to be prayed for, and then you ask what their requests would be and then you fill out the form and turn it into the office or to a member of the Prayer Quilt Ministry. Our motto continues to be *“It’s not about the quilt, it’s all about the prayers.”* God has answered those prayers – check out the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to read the many notes that have been sent to us – they will encourage you to continue to pray.

We are thankful for our group of volunteers who meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month to layer quilts, put in the ties, to pray for those receiving the quilts, and for fellowship. The many quilt tops are carefully designed and sewn together by our volunteers at home. Our volunteers are Norma Byers, Edie Iles, Elizabeth Lochbihler, Pat McAllister, Andrea O’Donoughue, Heather Parkin, Nikki Pointon, Carol Seaman and Liz Shantz. If you enjoy sewing and would like to help, please join us and we’ll be happy to get you started on a prayer quilt. If you like to organize things, we can always use help in that department too!

During 2023, we prepared 50 prayer quilts. Just between July 2 and October 23 we made, and you prayed for, 23 of the total for the year! We also continue to make baby quilts for the Baby Love Baskets. We sent 6 prayer quilts with Angie, Jamie and Illana when they went on their short term mission trip to help with the Asian Alliance Conference early in the year.

Our year is not complete without a Sew Day (or two) with the chapters from St. Mary’s in Owen Sound and the Owen Sound Lutheran Church. It is so encouraging for all of us to work together and compare stories of those who have received quilts while working on replenishing our stock of quilts.

If you know of someone in need of prayer and the gift of a quilt, please contact any of our members or pick up a request form in the hallway by the world map. If you have any questions about the process or the ministry, please contact one of us or talk to us at the prayer quilt table.

This ministry involves everyone at the Owen Sound Alliance Church. A small group make the quilts, but we could not continue this ministry without your involvement, so please continue to tie the knots and pray for those receiving the quilts. It was so exciting to get back to having everyone tie a knot and say a prayer over the prayer quilts this past year. Your prayers are very important to this ministry and we appreciate your involvement. A bonus has been to listen to a child pray for someone they know who is receiving a quilt!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BABY LOVE BASKETS

Written by: Brenda Atkins, Coordinator

This outreach ministry to our community continues to be as important as it was when it started 15 years ago. In the spring of 2008, a group of OSAC ladies sensed a need to reach out into the community of Owen Sound and beyond, in the way of giving a “love” basket to the alarming increase of unwed and young/teen soon to be parents, and to needy families. Since then, this ministry has provided 527 baskets to-date in our community of Grey and Bruce, with most referrals coming from nurses at the Bruce Grey Public Health Unit.

Thank you to Marion Neisen and Alexis Atkins who have helped pack the baskets and organise supplies over the year, and to Lisa Lambkin who is the public nurse liaison. If you would like to help with the preparation of the baskets when we receive requests, please let me know.

Each basket is filled with (depending on our supply availability):

- ❖ 1 home made quilt
- ❖ 1 knitted or crocheted afghan or fleece blanket
- ❖ 1 or 2 receiving blankets
- ❖ wash cloths/ baby wash and lotion
- ❖ pack of wipes/ small pack of diapers/ diaper cream
- ❖ knit or crocheted hat/ sweater
- ❖ sleepers
- ❖ onesies
- ❖ bibs
- ❖ toys/ books

We are so grateful to the ladies that provide quilts, afghans, and tiny hats and mittens through the work of their hands; and to the many people that donate the needed items for the baskets. This year, to save on costs, we switched to reusable cloth bags instead of the baskets we had been using. However, at the end of the year we returned to the baskets once again.

Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me, but also my Father who sent me. Mark 9:37 (NLT)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

HARVEST FOR HUNGER

Written by: Heather Parkin, Committee Chair

Harvest for Hunger is a project of Owen Sound Alliance Church, raising funds for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which are distributed through Alliance Justice and Compassion. The project was initiated in 2015, and since then, it has raised over \$282,000, which is matched by the Canadian Government either 4:1 for food assistance or 2:1 for agricultural and livelihood projects.

Approximately 22 acres of soybeans were grown this year by the Torrie and Parkin families. It was an average growing season, with some dry periods, but the rains seemed to come when they were critical to the crops. God is good!!!! This provided us with an average crop yield, but due to a number of factors, the price of soybeans was down significantly this year, decreasing our income from the crop.

We were blessed, once again, with a lovely day to host our event, Fall Day at the Farm in late September. The theme of the event was Harvest, with people being invited to pick their own pumpkins and get corn stalks for decorating. The pumpkins were not as ripe as we would have liked, but we still raised a significant amount from them, as we were able to sell them into October at the roadside. There were lots of activities for children, with a couple of new additions, archery tag and bubble soccer. These were a great hit with the slightly older kids and of course, the younger ones continued to enjoy the giant sand pile, barrel train, bouncy cow and face painting. Horse and wagon rides are always a hit, and the Inter Township Fire Dept. performed vehicle extrication demonstrations, which are always well attended. Music was provided by the Little Bigheads for those wishing to sit and visit and enjoy a piece of pie. Thank you to the men's group that took over barbeque duties, providing hot dogs and hamburgers to the hundreds of visitors. Thanks to Gayle Elder for coordinating the pie booth, which was a main attraction. Thanks also to the OSAC youth who assisted with the food, pumpkins and other activities. This year, we were able to bring the Silent Auction back, which was a great addition, with many interesting items. It generated a substantial amount of money. Thank you also to Larry Parkin and Al Neerhof who serve as Co-Chairs.

We were able to send a cheque to Canadian Foodgrains Bank for \$40,280, which was just slightly lower than 2022 (which was our biggest year ever). I am always humbled and amazed that we are able to raise so much. These funds will continue to support the food assistance project in Yemen, as well as the multi-year Agricultural and Livelihood project in Niger, which will impact 15,000 households in seven villages over the three-year period that it runs, enhancing agricultural productivity and diversification of livelihood options.

May the Lord bless those who deliver, as well as those who receive, the gift of food and knowledge provided by this project. We thank Owen Sound Alliance Church for getting behind this project and supporting it from the very beginning. With the ever-increasing numbers of hungry people in the world, we are extremely happy to be playing a small part. We are so blessed to live where we do, and are so glad to be able to share a small part of our good fortune. Thank you to everyone who supports this project in any way, and a special thank you to the OSAC youth, Pastor Ryan and Pastor Nick for getting involved and making the event at the farm such a great success.

He gave justice and help to the poor and needy, and everything went well for him. Is that not what it means to know me, says the Lord? Jeremiah 22:16

MISSIONS

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Written by: Cindie Holm, Chair

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!

Highlights of 2023

- Jamie and Angie Lyman, along with Ilana Lobbezoo were part of a STM team to Indonesia providing activities for children of the International Workers who attended the conference in January 2023.
- Christine and Aaron Peterson returned from their 3 month medical trip to Zambia with SIM (Serving In Missions) Canada, and were featured in a “Connections” issue.
- Guatemala STM trip team that consisted of Jim and Travis Wilson, and Janet Gibson in April 2023. The team was able to complete minor renovations on the buildings, they were also involved in street and prayer ministry, home visitation, and Power at Work which fits kids to shoes. During their visit they were also able to distribute the prayer quilts. Jim and Travis were also able to make contact with kids and young men through playing soccer, and Janet was able to participate in ministry to women.
- STM trip to Ecuador for Pastor Nick Kennedy along with other youth pastors, through Inca Link Vision.
- Send off for Dave, Andy, Layla and Sophia Foster occurred in July. They are ministering full-time as International Workers with Pioneers Canada overseas.
- Send off for Gary and Sharon Howell in August. They are ministering full-time as International Workers in Senegal with The Alliance Canada.
- Send off for Mike, Nikki, Todd, Oliver and Pascale Howell occurred in September. They are ministering full-time as International Workers in Senegal with The Alliance Canada.
- We also follow and uplift in prayer the Downtown Ministry and The Xchange.
- The Board of Elders approved a STM trip youth team to Ecuador that will occur in June 2024. This team will be led by Pastor Nick Kennedy.

The Missions Committee would like to thank the congregation for their prayer and financial support for the different mission outreach projects that occur within our church, internationally and locally.

The Missions Committee members are: Angie Lyman, Julia Kennedy, Kim, Lobbezoo, Janet Gibson, Brenna Carroll, and Cindie Holm. Brenna decided to step down from the committee in August 2023, we thank her for her contribution to the Committee.

MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Written by: Gary & Sharon Howell – serving in Senegal

2023 found us in Owen Sound for an 8 ½ month home assignment. We put 27,000 km on our vehicle as we spoke in several churches around the area, as well as in the Eastern Canadian District, Quebec and even all the way out to Sydney Mines on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. We live in a beautiful country. We enjoyed exploring new areas, meeting with new congregations and reconnecting with friends and colleagues.

It was good to be back in our hometown, and to reconnect with you and with family as well. We were thrilled with the addition of another grandson, and we are grateful for the “breakfasts with grandpa” and the times we were able to connect with our kids in Ottawa and with Sharon’s mom. We continue to live and walk with a deep sense of peace and gratitude for the faithfulness of God in this calling. But we do also acknowledge that we do so not in our own strength, but in the grace and strength that God our Rock provides. Reflecting on the tenderness and compassion of Jesus has been a great comfort to our souls of late.



Move to Thies: We returned to Senegal in mid-August and immediately began preparing for a move to Thies for us and for Mike and Nikki. We are grateful for the help of other IW colleagues who gave us tips and made crucial introductions to housing agents who helped us find our amazing new homes. God has answered above and beyond our expectations and provided us with beautiful homes which give not only space for us to relax and be restored, but also provides ample opportunity for hospitality. There is plenty of room for visitors; the welcome mat is out, so come and visit!

Our fall schedule was full with setting up and working out some major kinks in our new homes. And, we had some travel to fit in as well. In October, we were able to join with other Canadian IWs from our region for a Prayer Retreat. It was a treat for us to visit a new country and to deepen our relationships with fellow colleagues. Our souls were restored as we reflected and were reminded once again of our Father’s deep love and care for us. And we got to see the pyramids!



In November, we travelled to Liberia and attended the African regional meetings of the Alliance World Fellowship. What a treat to meet with our African Church leaders and to hear how God is at work in their countries. Two West African countries celebrated their centennials last year. One hundred years since Alliance IWs first went to their countries. The missionary vision is starting to catch on and several of the countries are now sending their own IWs to other African nations and planting churches.

Looking ahead: As we turn the calendar pages and begin to look ahead to a new year, we do so with gratitude for the testimony of the faithfulness of God, and an ever growing and deepening understanding of our need for His wisdom to guide our steps and our choices. We are hopeful and excited about some new opportunities opening for us. The recent short-term veterinary team that came has given us much to think about, and dream about. The reception among the Fulani herdsmen was so overwhelmingly positive. (Not to mention extremely FUN! Who knew wrangling sheep and goats would be such fun!) May we have wisdom to step in where God is at work.



We will also be welcoming some new families to our team. A family of seven will be arriving this summer from the US. They have done one term here but are transitioning in their ministry and would like us to mentor them as they learn and gain some skills in church planting and discipleship. A second family is also preparing to come this summer. Their sending country is a non-western limited access so there are some “tricky” things for us to figure out. Communication comes to mind as one of the big needs we will have as their first language is not English, we do not speak any words in their mother tongue.

Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support. May you be encouraged with us as together we rejoice in the faithfulness of God.

MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

Written by: Mike & Nikki Howell – serving in Senegal



We were so blessed to spend 75% of this past year on home assignment, living in Owen Sound and travelling throughout the Central Canadian District to visit churches. This time back in Canada encouraged us tremendously as we were both built into by mentors and friends and were able to pour out some of what we had received to others.

Thank you especially to Cindie Holm and the Missions Committee for practically facilitating our transition; to Eric Strain for providing us with a vehicle to lease; to Ilana Lobbezoo for guiding us through our first home assignment; to Gary and Sharon Howell for graciously balancing the roles of team leader and parents; and for Pastor Ryan Tudor and the rest of the church staff for welcoming us in with open arms. We are also thankful for my parents and siblings, who have released us to this work abroad, knowing the pain that separation brings, and for our boys, who handled a gigantic transition with courage and trust.

The year began by completing many of our outstanding apprenticeship tasks (a two-year apprenticeship that took place in Dakar, Senegal), and being appointed as fully funded international workers with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. We also each completed the core training process and interview to be ordained, a milestone that we were able to celebrate with our church family in April 2023.

We added a third son to our family at the end of February and were able to enjoy some wonderful times of dedicated parental leave as a family.

From May to August, we visited and spoke in churches, attended District Conference, and formed three Seamless Link agreements, including one with OSAC.

Highlights from the year also included honing our preaching abilities, hosting a missions Q&A night, joining a panel at district conference, connecting with numerous new supporters and ministry partners, and just participating in regular life at OSAC, including sharing meals with many of you in your homes.

In September 2023 we returned to Senegal for our first four-year term as fully funded IWs. We relocated to a new city, Thies, which is about an hour east of the capital, Dakar. We spent two months setting up our house (no easy feat in this part of the world) and settling our kids into their new school routines. After a quick trip to Egypt to gather with other workers, we began language study, which we will continue on with into 2024 and beyond.

We are excited to see what opportunities God brings before us in the years ahead in this new city. There is a great need for a contextualized church among the least-reached Wolof and Fulani people groups. We hope to partner with other IWs and local believers to share the gospel, disciple, and plant a church in this region, to the glory of God!

For Christ and His Kingdom.

MISSIONS

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Written by: Donna Jansen and Hannah Carroll, Co-Chairs

We are thankful for the commitment OSAC has continued to make by helping the oppressed through refugee sponsorship during 2023.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:1

What we do:

There are two sub-committees who work together under the leadership of Hannah Carroll and Donna Jansen. The combined efforts of both sub-committees support the sponsorship applications of eight Eritreans. All eight fled Eritrea some time ago and are currently living elsewhere (Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt). Our committees meet regularly to consider requests for sponsorship; liaise with The Alliance National Office (who liaises with Canada's Immigration, on our behalf); communicate with OSAC senior leadership and the Board; encourage donations; and make the necessary arrangements to facilitate a successful transition to life in Canada. As a private sponsor, we are required by Immigration Canada to support refugees for the first 12 months after arrival. This includes arranging housing, ESL, groceries, banking, medical and dental care, transportation, emotional support, etc. As a church sponsorship group, we are also committed to providing spiritual support.

Who they are:

Three cousins, all in their twenties, living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Their names are Biniyam, Fiyori and Selam. Because of the recent flare up of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia, these three are basically living in hiding and cannot safely go outside. This makes it very dangerous even to buy food. They can't work and the only money they receive is from relatives now living in Owen Sound (previously sponsored by our partnership with Calvary Evangelical Missionary Church). We thank God for answered prayers as these three applications are now in the active stage and we expect their arrival in Canada to happen within months.

One single mother and her three children living in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Her name is Retei, and her children are Rory (19), Marta (8) and Kabiell (6). Retei fled Eritrea when she was 21 and her son Rory was 3 years old. She works hard and trusts in the Lord to provide what she needs each month for her and her family.

One single Eritrean woman, in her twenties, living in Egypt. Her name is Yorda. She is the niece/cousin of the first Eritrean family we sponsored in 2015. Egypt is not a safe country for a young, unmarried girl. The only family Yorda has is in Canada. OSAC approved the submission of her application and we anticipate her arrival in 2025 or 2026.

Highlight of 2023:

The notice we received in December that Biniyam, Fiyori and Selam were moved to active processing by Immigration. They subsequently passed their interview and medical requirements. We are now waiting for final approval, issued Visas and plane tickets.

Financial update:

The priority for donations right now is to help the three cousins living in Ethiopia. An additional \$9000 is needed for their support. The money required for Retei and her family is \$30,000 and \$28,000 has been raised. Future donations will be directed to support Yorda's sponsorship.

Thank you to our committee members:

First committee: Tony and Rita Bevan; Jono and Rachel Stanley; Aklilu Tewelde; Natu Yousef; Gail Wood; Thelma Shaw; Pastor Ryan; Hannah Carroll; Donna Jansen.

Second committee: Scott and Elizabeth McIntosh; Nathan and Sierra Symons; Aaron and Christine Gross; Ben and Alyssa McIntosh; Brenna Carroll; Hannah Carroll, Joel and Josie McCallum.

SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

ESL (English as a Second Language)

Written by: Dave & Andy Foster, Coordinators

As we look back on the last semester of Arden Language Centre it is with awe, thankfulness and praise and the words, "only God!"

God surely did so much in the eight years that we served Newcomers at OSAC. We still remember when we had just 4 students and having our first Christmas party at Frog Ponds and thinking - "I can't believe we have this many students!!!" I really had no idea what was to come!

Over the next 8 years, God truly brought the nations to us. As different wars happened, we saw the nationalities of our students change - from Syrian, to Afghan to Ukrainian. Over the 8 years we had the opportunity to teach English and share our hope in Jesus with people from over 30 countries.

The last semester was very special with incredible students and volunteers. We ran four classes full-time and spent a lot of time with the families. The program ended on a high note with a weekend camping trip to Camp Crossroads, with over 100 Newcomers and Canadians joining.

The support of Owen Sound Alliance Church has been incredible! From those who volunteered with us, prayed for us and just encouraged us. Your financial support to us allowed Newcomers to learn English, be part of a community that loved them and hear about the wonderful "Hope" we have. Thank you. We literally could not have done it without you!

We are so thankful for the Advisory Board that served with us for eight years, which included Ewan Porter, Martha Carroll, and Diana Caldwell. Their wisdom and encouragement truly was a gift from God.

God continues to do incredible things through Christeena Nienhuis and Jono & Rachel Stanley as well. We are thankful for how they are continuing to do ESL classes twice a week and many other exciting endeavours!

As I write this from the Middle East, I can't help but be so thankful for each of you - your prayers, financial support and friendships have been felt in a deep way. As we start this new chapter we are excited to see how God builds on the last eight years. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. It is a privilege to continue this work together!

"Until they all know..."



| Average Attendance - | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 <i>(COVID)</i> | 2021 <i>(COVID)</i> | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|------------------------|------|------|
| Worship Services (Nursery – Adult): | 324 | 305 | 320 | 342 | 187 | 206 | 282 | 325 |
| Sunday School (Nursery - Gr. 8): | 65 | 69 | 69 | 66 | 66 | 36 | 64 | 68 |

Membership

Membership for 2023 *(includes active and non-active)*: 366

New Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Don Davis | Wayne Elder | Harry Gils | Dana Cowie Gils |
| Janelle Gordon | Larry Gordon | Mona Gordon | Elizabeth Korpall |
| Peter Korpall | Joe Leslie | Shelly Leslie | Quinn Lucas |
| Heidi Lucas | Sharon Mundle | Marion Neisen | Scott Robbins |
| Kristen Salisbury | Darren Tobin | Megan Tobin | Mitchell Tobin |
| Terri Tobin | James Turner | | |

Deaths * *Denotes members*

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Mae Bartley* | Cheryl Brine* | Ethel Henderson* |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|

Baptisms

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jesse Bittel | Ken Burtwistle | Blaine Cressman | Curtis Cressman |
| Leah Elder | Wayne Elder | Peter Korpall | Jill Mandigo |
| Eden Moise | Ana Musselman | Wesley Trela | Alegra Tudor |
| Trevor Uitvlugt | | | |

Elders: Appointments and Terms

| 2021 – 2024 | 2022 – 2025 | 2023 - 2026 |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jim Cunningham | Terry Bartley | Rita Bevan |
| Greg Farrow | Martha Carroll | Kevin Howell |
| | Larry Parkin | Mary Ann MacDonald |
| | Tim Wood | |