

Cordova Bay United Church

“Living out Christ’s Love”



2022 Annual Report

Ministry Report—Pastor Nancy Walker

*"Joy comes with the dawn."
(Psalm 30:5)*

It has been a year of change, both for me personally and for our community of faith, Cordova Bay United Church. Like every year, there have been challenges and delights. And yet somehow, this year, it all seemed more momentous than ever.

With the retirement of my beloved colleague, the Rev. Bill Cantelon, we were left with big shoes to fill. I was not sure how we would do it, but I should have known to trust the movement of the Spirit. There has been anticipation and joy in formation of a new ministry team, including Pastor Beth Parsons and Music Director Sharon Prindle-Collins and myself. It feels like new possibilities are opening to our congregation.

There are more transitions coming in 2023. I really appreciate the faithfulness of the people here at CBUC. As you discern the future, I know you will keep that ancient question close to your heart – *"What does the Lord require of you?"* and I know that you will remember the reply – *"to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:8). I know this because I have seen you be kind and caring, I have seen your desire for justice, that no-one should be hungry, or lonely, or subject to violence. I have seen your hearts and know your faith, and I am thankful to God for each of you.

Blessings, Nancy Walker.



In Memoriam

Robert Cottam

Lynne Bernice Huestis

Carole Anne Krueckl

Judy McLelan

Rev. George Cameron McMillan

John Walter Rowan

John Robert Sadler

Barbara Sands

Rebecca Ann Staples

John Steeves

Sandra Lynn Swenson

Evelyn Christina Vandenbrink

May their memory be a blessing.



Pastor Nancy with Izzy and Alex



Worship

- 80+** people attending Sunday worship in-person year-end
- 82** viewers on average for livestreamed and recorded Sunday worship
- 55** livestreamed or recorded worship services
- 45** in-person worship services
- 4** worship services during Holy Week: 3 in-person/livestreamed and 1 recorded

- 20** families received personal messages each week with a short lesson and craft activity as part of the Spirit Kids program when we were unable to worship in-person
- 2** Messy Church services and one Messy Beach Day
- 30** people turned out for the first Community Outdoor Carol Sing

Cordova Bay United Church

—Our Vision: an inclusive community living out Christ's love and care for the world.—

Ministry Report—Pastor Beth Parsons

I write this year's report during a time of Epiphany, a season of light, when the people of earth walk in darkness. As I write, I look out my front window, and notice some of my neighbours still have their lights on from Christmas. I see how the lights reflect on the wet pavement and continue beyond the confines of their homes, and then I think of the light of Christ.

Though the light is sometimes shadowed by difficult times and uncertain paths, Christ continues to shine beyond the confines that we set. So, I am reminded this evening of the scripture from John 8: 12: *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* May we continue to see and feel the light that offers comfort and peace way beyond this season of Epiphany.

It was truly the light of Christ that welcomed Glenn and I last August to Cordova Bay United Church. Our arrival was met with a warm welcome from a community of faith that truly care about one another. It has been a blessing to meet so many new people and an honour to hear your stories of life and be there for you in so many ways.

I hit the ground running, as they say, as I began to preach and offer care. Nancy and I had a great lunch in August, and I thank Nancy for her support when I arrived.

"Visioning" for a new way forward at the church begin in September. Jiemei has been a wonderful source of support and guidance through this process. Cordova Bay is lucky to have her. With the task group formed in December, we are well on the way to new strategies and dreams of possibilities for Cordova Bay United Church.

It has also been so great to work with Leslie (in the summer) and Jane. Besides being a very competent administrator, Jane demonstrates wonder pastoral skills. I listen to Jane as she takes time out of her busy day to visit and listen to those who come into the church. She's a keeper.

Sharon has been so wonderful to work with, not only because she is so talented, but also because of her easy going way and that laugh – I love that laugh. The choir is fun and light and someday we will get our heads out of our music and watch her. Thank you, Sharon, for all your gifts.

A big thank you to Ruth and Erich, who welcomed us into their home, dogs and all. You will never know how much that meant to Glenn and me. You have become such good friends and we will always treasure our time on Bear Hill.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my husband, Glenn. Glenn has always been a source of guidance, support and strength. I especially needed that in 2022, as we ventured across the country into the great unknown. I thank Glenn for his incredible wisdom and talent and for his partnership in all that we do.

Thank you, Cordova Bay United church, for the warm welcome and for all your support and friendship these past 6 months.

Wishing everyone the light and love of Christ and blessings to all in 2023.

God bless, Beth

**"It was truly the
light of Christ
that welcomed
Glenn and I"**



Our Church Community

152 households call Cordova Bay United their spiritual home

40 people (17 children and 23 adults) attended the September Messy Church

6 new members received

1 baptism

1 wedding

43 women belong to the Ethel Wilson Women's Group

15 on average attend the Men's Breakfast Group

20 members of the choir

7 members of the church band

7 members of the chime choir



Church Council Report

2022 has been a busy year at Cordova Bay United Church! Thank you all for your participation and contribution in making our church a vibrant community of faith!

Early in the year, we were happy to welcome each other back to in-person worship in the sanctuary, after a two-year closing of the church building due to the pandemic. At the same time, the worship service was livestreamed for our congregants to be part of the service online. Messy Church also returned for children and their families.



In mid-year, our Lead Minister, Reverend Bill Cantelon, went on retirement after 45 years serving United Churches in western Canada, and specifically 16 years with Cordova Bay United Church. The congregation hosted a Retirement Celebration event to say a heartfelt “Thank you” to Bill for his outstanding service to this community.

In the summer, with great excitement, we welcomed our new Minister, Pastor Beth Parsons, and our new Music Director, Sharon Prindle-Collins. Beth and Sharon form a ministry team together with Pastor Nancy Walker, and Jane Shumka, Office Administrator. The new team has generated new energy and lifted our spirit to a new high.

Since we returned to in-person worship and fellowship time, we have put much emphasis on connecting and re-connecting with congregation members who had been affected by the pandemic restrictions. Through our efforts, we have seen member engagement recover to almost pre-pandemic level.

Even though we are still in recovery and need to sort ourselves out in the next while, we are moving forward with high hope to carry out God’s mission in the community. We have launched a process to discern our future direction and ministry needs. Working on this transition process will be the priority in early 2023.

*Jiemei Li,
Chair, Cordova Bay United Church Council*



Reaching out to the Community

93 subscribers to the Cordova Bay United Church
YouTube channel—a 55% increase from 2021

5 communication campaigns

\$320 spent on advertising using Facebook, Instagram, and
Messenger to promote church services, programs,
and events

4,791 people reached by ad on Facebook and Instagram
inviting people to celebration Sunday Sept. 11

\$590 invested in a new sandwich board sign informing the
community of church services, programs and events

70 flyers distributed door-to-door in late September
inviting neighbours to the Cordova Café

44 people attended the December Cordova Café,
including several from the community

50 flyers delivered door-to-door inviting the community
to Advent and Christmas services and events

2 stories placed in The Cordovan newsletter, one about
the Christmas Carol Sing and a second on The
Cordova Café

We said goodbye to Rev. Bill Cantelon

Cordova Bay United Church said goodbye in 2022 to longtime minister, Rev. Bill Cantelon who retired after 45 years in ministry, the last 16 at Cordova Bay.

Well-wishers packed the sanctuary on June 26 for a 2 1/2-hour Sunday afternoon program of music, word and celebration in tribute to Bill for his years of dedicated service.

The afternoon started with Casey Vandenbrink, dressed in a chauffeur's outfit (complete with cap) and Linda Snelling picking Bill and wife Brenda up and taking them to the church for the celebration. Linda then accompanied Bill into the sanctuary and Casey escorted Brenda where they were greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd.

Bill and Brenda joined their two children, Melanie and Matthew, along with their families and extended family.

The afternoon began with an introduction by Jiemei Li, chair of the CBUC church council, who welcomed everyone and turned the proceedings over to mistress of ceremonies for the day, Barbara Waldner.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was when Joanne Thomas, chair of the Caring Ministry Team, presented Bill with a book of memories — photos of his time at CBUC as well as notes and stories from more than 70 people in the congregation relating their experiences with Bill.

Margaret Bates presented Brenda with a beautiful bouquet of flowers after which Erich Schulz presented Bill with a monetary retirement gift from the church community.

Bill then thanked everyone and remarked on his time in ministry and at CBUC.

The crowd then gave Bill a rousing send-off with "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" before heading into the church hall for refreshments, cake and goodies.



Comings and Goings

- **Rev. Bill Cantelon** retired at the end of June after 16 years as minister at Cordova Bay United Church. Bill was given a warm sendoff by the congregation.
- **Pastor Beth Parsons** came to CBUC in August as a half-time supply minister. Her appointment continues until the summer.
- **Sharon Prindle-Collins** joined us in August as music director.
- Former longtime music director **Pat Shumka** was honoured with the title of Music Director Emerita.
- **Nicholas Miller** resigned after 10 years as secretary on the Carrot Seed Preschool board of directors. He moves on to focus on other challenges.
- **Roger Miller** steps down as chair of the Carrot Seed Preschool. Roger and his team were instrumental in saving the preschool and making it viable. Roger will continue on the board.
- **Ria Korteweg, Valerie Armstrong and Jean Hazemi** were welcomed as new members of the Stewardship Committee.
- After a number of years serving the Stewardship Committee, **Ed Hickcox** stepped down.
- **Sascha Enns** stepped away from his position as tech support for sound and livestreaming.
- **Peter Gray** stepped down as point person for the sound systems, though Peter remains active, offering help and advice.
- **Rob Glenn** took over responsibility for the sound systems.
- **Jiemei Li** stepped down as scheduler for livestreaming service and was replaced by **Bill Walker**.
- **Ed Hickcox** stepped down as chair of Trustees and was replaced by **Ron Norman**.
- **Jennifer Hastings** and **Margaret Bates** stepped down from the Caring Committee.

We welcomed new ministry staff

Last year also saw us welcome a new minister, Pastor Beth Parsons, and a new music director, Sharon Prindle-Collins.

Beth and Sharon joined Pastor Nancy Walker and office administrator Jane Shumka as our new ministry team.

Beth's was appointed as a half-time supply minister for a minimum 12 months. One of her primary duties is to help guide the congregation through its transition out of the pandemic. This includes working with church council to help determine the ministry needs and staff configuration at CBUC. As well, she and Nancy share worship duties.

Beth came to us from Mt. Brydges in southern Ontario where for the last five years she was the solo minister for a two-point pastoral charge: Mount Brydges United Church and Cook's United Church. Beth is a designated lay minister with training and experience in youth ministry and pastoral care. She is also an accomplished singer and pianist.

Sharon's appointment is for 14 hours a week. Sharon is a talented and hardworking sacred musician with expertise in piano and organ.

She has extensive background in the United Church of Canada with 16 years' experience of paid music ministry and many more playing as a lay person. Sharon sees music as a calling and privilege, and an opportunity to "Praise the Lord. / Sing to the Lord a new song. / God's praise in the assemble of God's faithful people." (Ps. 149.1, NIV)

Sharon lives in Sidney where she was most recently music director at St. Paul's United. Prior to that she was church musician at the United Church of Langley for 10 years and music director at Northwood United Church in Surrey. Sharon was also a public health nurse.



Our new ministry team: Pastor Beth Parsons,
Sharon Prindle-Collins
and Pastor Nancy Walker



Online Ministry

- 108** viewers for 4pm Christmas Eve Service
- 88** viewers on average for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, many more than historically attended in-person
- 193** viewers for the Feb 20 worship service—the most when we were worshipping only online
- 153** viewers for the May 22 worship service—the most when we were worshipping both in-person and online
- 75** people attended the church's annual general meeting on Feb 13 via ZOOM



We honoured Pat Shumka

In May, Cordova Bay United Church honoured former longtime music director Pat Shumka with a special designation: Music Director Emerita.

John MacLeod, chair of of the Outreach Committee and representing CBUC Council, made the presentation at the May 8 Sunday service. John presented Pat with a framed certificate.

Pat served 32 years as music/choir director at CBUC before retiring in 2018. She was also a member of the choir for 15 years before becoming music director.

Margaret Chambers, president of the church choir, presented Pat with a bouquet of flowers.

Pat spoke briefly about the start of the choir at CBUC and how she was encouraged to take on the role of music director by Pat Steinbring, the outgoing director at the time.

Appropriately, the final hymn for the service was *Be Thou My Vision*, Pat's favourite hymn.



Children and Youth

20 families received postcards inviting them back to church in September

16 families received seasonal “Faith at Home” kits

- *Lent/Easter*
- *Pentecost*
- *Creation/Autumn*
- *Advent/Christmas*

40 children and youth received birthday cards from the church in the mail

6 children attended Messy Church Beach Day in Gyro Park

19 months to 91 the ages of those who took part in the Intergenerational Christmas Eve family service



We celebrated our newest Canadian citizens

In the summer we celebrated Cordova Bay United's newest Canadian citizens – our Syrian family.

Noor, Ghaeth, Karam and Lauren all became citizens. Ayman did not take the oath. He needs to improve his English before he can take the test."

Noor says she took the test "with pride and happiness."

"My feelings are hard to describe." She adds. "We are really very happy about it."

The family has now been in Canada for four years and continues to rent the same house on Lily Avenue that we found for them. Ayman works at food delivery, mostly for DoorDash, but occasionally for Skip the Dishes as well. He is studying Level 3 English at the Intercultural Association.

Noor took Professional Technology Level 9 at Camosun, which is the last level for the English program there. Ghaeth, the oldest boy, is now 16 and is in Grade 10. Karam, the younger boy, is 11 years old and is in Grade 6 at Rogers Elementary. Lauren, the youngest, is 10 years old, and is in Grade 5 at Rogers Elementary.

"I am grateful to all members of the church because you were the helpers and supportive people for us from the first step for us in Canada," says Noor. "I appreciate all your kindness, efforts and support for us. Thank you very much."

Making an Impact in the Community

\$2,190 donated by Ethel Wilson Women's Group to local organizations:

- **\$840** in gift cards and two boxes of food donations to the Cridge Family Centre's food cupboard
- **\$450** to Bridges for Women
- **\$450** to 1 Up Single Parent Resource Centre
- **\$450** to Victoria Sexual Assault centre

\$250 donated by the church to The Times Colonist Christmas Fund

\$250 donated by the church to CFX Santa's Anonymous

\$250 donated by the church to The Le, NONET Bursary for an Indigenous student at the University of Victoria

Faith Formation

17 people took part in the Lenten book study

25 people took part in the Easter/Pentecost online study

2 daily devotionals posted to the church website and Facebook page—one during Lent/Easter and another during Advent/Christmas/Epiphany





Caring for Others

130 emails a week sent to members by Ministry personnel

24 phone calls a week to members by Ministry personnel

30 people contacted in late August and invited to Celebration Sunday on Sept. 11

8 prayer shawls handed out

4 people took part in the monthly Dementia Caregiver Support Group led by Rev. Wilda Cottam and three people continue to gather regularly.



Helping Those in Need

\$6,200 to Our Place, including:

- **\$1,500** for the hot meals program
- **\$400** from Cordova Café's baking and Christmas décor sale
- **75** Christmas gifts valued at more than \$3,000 as part of the Angel Gift Program
- **\$300+** in donations for the unhoused at Our Place, including:
 - four sleeping bags
 - nine blankets
 - 12 tarps
 - 6 jackets and sweaters
 - 1 box of socks

\$2,400 for Ukrainian refugees in Victoria, including:

- \$2,100 raised at music fundraiser
- \$300 raised through the Cordova Café

\$15,300 to the United Church Mission and Service Fund, which supports national and international aid programs: things like soup kitchens and refugee programs in Canada and global projects that allow people to access clean water, food and medical care

Carrot Seed Preschool

34 years Carrot Seed has provided excellence in early Childhood Education (ECE) programing and instruction to the community

Full enrollment in Carrot Seed during 2022

5 year waiting list to get into carrot Seed

6 preschool teachers

1 ECE mentorship program run by Head of School in conjunction with Camosun College



Carrot Seed Preschool



We launched the Cordova Café

As one way for the church to help build community in Cordova Bay, the Caring Ministry Team planned and launched a drop-in café in September.

The café runs once a month on the second Saturday, from 10-noon in the church hall. At the inaugural café, fundraising efforts resulted in over \$300 going to assist local Ukrainian refugees.

At the end of September, some Caring Team members delivered approximately 70 flyers to mailboxes in the community inviting people to the October Cordova Café.

In November, an article was placed in *The Cordovan* newsletter inviting the community to the November café. A couple of community folks saw the piece and turned out. That café also featured a book sale, which raised \$578 that went to the church.

The December café had a baking and Christmas décor sale that raised \$958 -- \$400 of which went to Our Place and the remainder to the church.

The drop-in cafés seem to be well received and up to 40 people have come out to enjoy the social interaction, including a few people from the community.





We raised \$2,100 for Ukrainian family

On Nov. 6, some 130 people filled Cordova Bay United Church for a benefit concert for a local Ukrainian refugee family. Admission to the two-hour concert, An Afternoon of Music, was by donation and raised \$2,100.

The concert featured students from the studio of Toshiko Tampo, including our own Peter Houghton. The students played a range of pieces, from Shostakovich to Chopin, Brahms and Debussy.

John MacLeod, chair of the church's Outreach Committee, presented the funds to Lesia Terentieva and her four-year-old daughter, Mika, immediately following the concert.

Mika wore a beautiful yellow and blue dress — the colours of Ukraine's flag. The dress was made by Kelly Insley, daughter-in-law of Kate Insley. Lesia and Mika are the same family who received donations from the church's Country Fair in the spring.





Our financial year

Cordova Bay United Church faced many challenges in 2022, not least of which was we were closed to in-person services for the first two months because of COVID 19 restrictions. Though we continued to provide services via livestream.

When we opened our doors again on March 6, it took a while before people returned in the same numbers that we had for Sunday services before the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the church ended the year with virtually balanced books: just a slim deficit of \$26 on a budget totalling \$377,206.

Thank you to everyone who continued to support the church financially. Your extreme generosity was critical in Cordova Bay United Church emerging from the pandemic in a strong position.

In 2022, you gave a total of \$287,065 – up \$7,263 from the year before.

We had 124 individuals and families financially contribute to the church in 2022 – 60 donated through PAR (pre-authorized remittance), 35 through offering envelopes, 24 by loose cheque, 2 online through Canada Helps and 3 through non-Interac bank transfers.

Carrot Seed contributed \$41,400 – about 11% of the church's total income, including \$31,400 to operating costs and a rent supplement of \$10,000, which was placed in the capital fund.

The return of the Country Fair meant \$19,400 for the church coffers.

We gave \$15,307 to the Mission and Service Fund – up \$1,320 over 2021.

We know that 2023 will provide different challenges for us, but we also know that we can meet them because you will be there.

Thank you for your continued support.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Total Givings	\$ 271,758.00
Carrot Seed	\$ 41,400.00
Use of Building	\$ 19,993.00
Fundraisers	\$ 21,817.00
Grants	\$ 4,211.00
Other	\$ 2,721.00
M&S	\$ 15,307.00

Total Income **\$ 377,206.00**

EXPENSES

Ministerial & Clerical	\$ 221,280.00
M & S	\$ 15,307.00
Committees	\$ 7,823.00
Local Outreach	\$ 3,600.00
Building Operations	\$ 92,616.00
Administration	\$ 27,039.00
Transfers	\$ 9,568.00

Total Expenses **\$ 377,232.00**

Net Deficit **\$ 26.00**

Financial Facts

\$377,206 income

\$377,232 expenses

\$26 deficit for the year

\$3.6 million assessed value of the church – up 12% from 2021

\$107,231 value of the church Legacy Fund as of Dec. 30, 2022 – an increase of \$1,952 from 2021.

How to support the work of the church

We need everyone contributing if we are to fulfill our mission of “living out Christ’s love and care for the world”.

Here’s how you can help financially:

PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE

This easy method is an alternative to church envelopes. Your donation is withdrawn from your bank account around the 20th of the month. You can stop or add to your donation at any time. If you are interested please contact the [church office](#).

OFFERING ENVELOPES

We offer “Weekly Offering Envelopes” that can be used for cash or cheques. Contact the [church office](#) if you would like to receive a yearly set of envelopes.

ONLINE

Donations can also be made online through our secure [website](#).



Where the money came from

\$287,065	total givings – up \$7,263 from the year before
\$153,734	givings through PAR (pre-authorized remittance) – \$7,009 more than 2021
\$106,489	givings through general donations such as envelopes – about the same as the year before
\$41,400	from Carrot Seed Preschool, including \$10,000 in rent supplement
\$21,817	from fundraisers like the Country Fair (about 6% of total income)
124	identifiable donors in 2022
60	donated by PAR (pre-authorized remittance)
35	donated by envelope
24	donated by loose cheque

Where the money went

\$15,307	to the Mission and Service Fund – up \$1,320 over 2021
\$221,280	for ministry, clerical and support staff (salaries, benefits)
\$37,573	for custodial
\$20,258	for maintenance and repairs
\$16,081	for hydro



Building Maintenance

\$20,258 in maintenance and repairs, including:

- Fence fabricated and installed to protect labyrinth
- Outside storage shed dug out and crushed stone apron installed
- Repair to wall topping and stonework carried out and completed
- Outside doors sanded and primed
- Memorial garden sprinkler system overhauled due to damage
- Updates carried out on existing sound system
- All permits renewed and posted as to provincial and municipal codes
- Heating system controls modified for more efficient operation
- All monthly tests carried out on the fire alarm system
- Water (sewer system) scoped to check efficiency and integrity of system.



This annual report captures just the highlights of the work of groups and committees at CBUC.

We encourage you to read their full reports for an in depth look at all their achievements.

Just click on the links below.

[Board of Trustees](#)

[Caring Ministry](#)

[Carrot Seed Preschool](#)

[Children, Youth and Young Adults](#)

[Communications](#)

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[Ethel Wilson Women's Group](#)

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