



"Living Out Christ's Love"



Cordova Bay United Church
2023 Annual Report

Ministry Report—Pastor Beth Parsons

From the desk of Pastor Beth

A church is just really... a building. It's made up of bricks and mortar, a foundation to keep it strong and steady, and beauty within to allow peace and stillness while we worship. The furnace provides the warmth, the kitchen provides the nourishment and the hall provides the fellowship.

Without the people though, a church will just remain... a building. The people provide the love and laughter, strength and faithfulness. The people are the body within, living out the word of God in their everyday actions. During my first six months as minister here at Cordova Bay United church, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the people of this congregation living out their faith in so many ways.



I am proud to proclaim that I am the Minister of Worship and Congregational Life at Cordova Bay United church. I have been so proud, because I have witnessed the work and life of the church being lived out in our communities; way beyond the bricks and mortar of our building. When our church has seen sorrow, illness, a basic need or support required, the many people of this church are there to provide what is needed. Phone calls, cards and visits are just some of the ways to show their love and support. Through their many and varied gifts, the church people are living out the Gospel of Christ, doing what they can to make a difference in this world.

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ..." Romans 12: 4-5

My ministry here has been a very smooth and easy transition. I know that I have many people to thank. To Jane, thank you for your support with my new ministry in the church and for all the great work you do for this church. Thank you to Sharon for a deep faith that continues to resonate through your ministry of music. To our chairs of council, Jiemei and Laurie, thanks for all your hard work and support. To the congregation, who make me laugh and sometimes tear up, thank you for your care, kindness and inviting me into your lives.

It is a joy and a gift to work in ministry with such dedicated and faithful people. I look forward to what 2024 will bring, but most importantly, I am so blessed to be travelling with you down the road together.

Yours, in God's greater mission,

Pastor Beth

Our Church Community

- 154** households call Cordova Bay their spiritual home
- 61** people (21 children and 40 adults) attended the June Messy Church
- 4** new members received
- 1** baptism
- 13** members of the church council
- 41** women in the Ethel Wilson Women's Group
- 22** members of the Men's Breakfast Group
- 21** members of the choir
- 13** members of the band (11 instrumentalists and 2 vocalists)
- 6** members of the chime choir
- 6** members of The Knitting Group
- 16** members of The Bookies book club
- 15** people turned out to give the church a "shave and a haircut" as part of the Property Committee's annual fall clean-up day in late November
- 23** golfers braved high winds and heavy rain to build community at the Cordova Bay United Church annual golf social at The Ridge Golf Course in September

Church Council Report

2023 has been a pivotal year at Cordova Bay United Church! It has continued to be a time of transition and change for our faith community. We do our best to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in all that we do and to love each other regardless of differing points of view.

We started the year with the launch of a process to discern our future direction and ministry needs. It was a challenging process. Blessed with God's guidance and our strong faith, we had identified our priorities and journeyed through a difficult but necessary path for transformation.

In June, the congregation and the Messy Church families said good-bye to our Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults, Nancy Walker, as she moved to serve another congregation on the Central Coast of BC.

We were blessed that Pastor Beth Parsons answered our call for a full-time Minister of Worship and Congregation Life. In August, she started her new ministry with the ministry team: Music Director, Sharon Prindle-Collins, Office Administrator, Jane Shumka, and Leslie Moffat as the Interim Children and Youth Program Coordinator. The new team has brought uplifting spiritual experience to congregants young and old.

Throughout the year, members of our faith community have remained active and engaged. We have welcomed new members into our faith family. Through various fund-raising events and a giving campaign, we were able to address the budget pressure we faced this year. We sincerely thank all who gave so generously!

God's work needs many hands. Many of our dedicated and faithful members stepped up this year and in past years to take on roles on committees, in worship leadership, making beautiful music, and facilitating the children and youth program. Thank you all for your participation and contribution in making this God's house a viable and vibrant community of faith!

Our transformation and discernment will continue in 2024 and beyond. We are on a faithful journey towards a bright future! We will move forward with confidence and high hope to carry out God's mission in the community.

Jiemei Li and Laurie Mueller

Co-Chairs, Cordova Bay United Church Council

**2023
Annual
Meeting**



STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR CORDOVA BAY UNITED CHURCH

The Congregation

Church Council

Executive: Chair, Vice-Chair, Council Secretary, Minister
Members: Chairs of standing committees, Representatives of Board of Trustees, Carrot Seed Preschool, Music Liaison

Standing Committees

Caring
Children, Youth, and Young Adults
Communication
Ministry and Personnel
Nominating
Outreach and M&S
Property
Stewardship
Worship

Special Groups

Ethel Wilson
Men's Breakfast
Library

Annual or Ongoing (Monthly) Events

Cordova Café
Knitting
Book Club
Soiree

How you can get involved

At Cordova Bay United Church everything begins with Sunday worship. But it doesn't end there. Groups and committees are where we grow and connect – and where we live out our church ministry and mission.

There are lots of ways for you to get involved at Cordova Bay United.

There's a women's group that meets in the evening and a men's group that meets for breakfast. There are knitters and book lovers and singers and musicians – and that doesn't even include our more formal committees like Outreach and Caring and Stewardship.

Find your place and live your passion.

Ethel Wilson Women's Group

The Ethel Wilson Women's Group meets once a month on the last Tuesday at 7:30 pm to provide fellowship, love and support for one another. The meetings feature an activity or guest speaker and are a great way to get to know other women in the church.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets every second Saturday at 9 am in the church hall. The men serve a continental breakfast and have a guest speaker who may talk on anything from the history of Palestine to the life of a stand-up comic.

The Knitting Group

Are you a knitter? Would you like to learn how to knit? Then the Knitting Group has a place for you. The knitters get together on the third Wednesday of the month in the afternoon to knit items like our famous prayer shawls and the fabulous fish and chip sweaters that were made for the For The Love of Africa non-profit that works in Tanzania. Contact the church office for details on how to get involved.



**Andy and the Queens of Caffeine
Sunday Fellowship Team**



**Ethel Wilson Women's Group
Christmas Social**



Men's Breakfast Group

The Book Club (aka The Bookies)

The Book Club meets every third Friday at 10 am in the Friendship Room. If you'd like to join them, contact Marjorie Gray or just show up.

Carrot Seed Preschool

Cordova Bay United Church has been operating Carrot Seed Preschool for the last 35 years. Our programs are child-directed and teacher-supported. Their board is looking for new members. Just contact Willa Burke, head of nominations for the church.

Church Committees

Church committees are where some of the most fulfilling and rewarding work gets done.

Caring – Provides care and support for church members, especially those with special needs or who are isolated.

Children, Youth and Young Adults – Responsible for building and supporting children, youth and young adults in their Christian faith, leadership development and growth.

Ministry and Personnel —Responsible for supporting, overseeing, and supervising our ministry personnel and lay staff.

Outreach – Supports and encourages change and outreach in this community and internationally.

Property – Manages the church building and property.

Stewardship – helps the church fulfill its mission and ministry through a year-round, ongoing stewardship program.

Trustees – the formal body that legally holds the property for the use and benefit of the congregation.



The Knitting Group



The Bookies Book Club



For the Love of Africa Valentine's Tea and Dance



Holland family honoured for their gift of grand piano

Longtime Cordova Bay United Church member Lorne Holland and his three children were honoured during the Sept. 24 Sunday Worship service for their gift of a grand piano.

The piano was played regularly by Lorne's wife, Jean, who was also a longtime member of CBUC and who passed away in 2020. Jean was active in the church choir and music ministry at CBUC.



Our fabulous Chime Choir led by Margaret Chambers



September Golf Social

Worship

61 in-person and livestreamed worship services

85+ people on average attended Sunday worship in-person

190+ people attended the Christmas Eve worship

105 people attended the Sept. 10 Homecoming Service

4,588 views of livestreamed worship services in 2023

81 viewers on average tuned in for livestreamed worship services

8 in-person, livestreamed and recorded worship services during Holy Week

20 people on average attend the monthly worship service at Saanich Peninsula Hospital (the service was started in 2023)

24 families received Take Out Church boxes with faith-at-home activity kits

4 Messy Church services and one Messy Beach Day



Homecoming Sunday, Sept 10



New members celebrating with Pastor Beth (left to right) Melissa Nagy, Bill Samis, Karen Strawn Samis, and Leanne Isomaa

Online Ministry

323

viewers for Easter Sunday service – the most all year

60

viewers on average for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, which is considerably more than historically attend in-person

148

viewers for Pastor Beth Parsons' Holy Monday video

149

viewers for Pastor Nancy Walker's Holy Tuesday video

20,000+

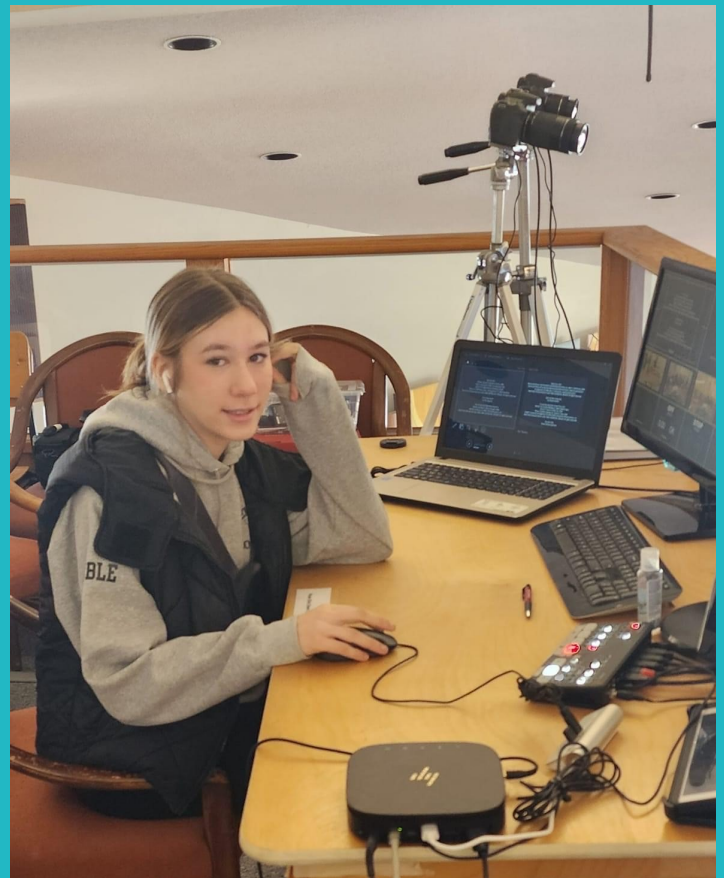
viewers for Summer Bedtime Stories with Beth videos

188

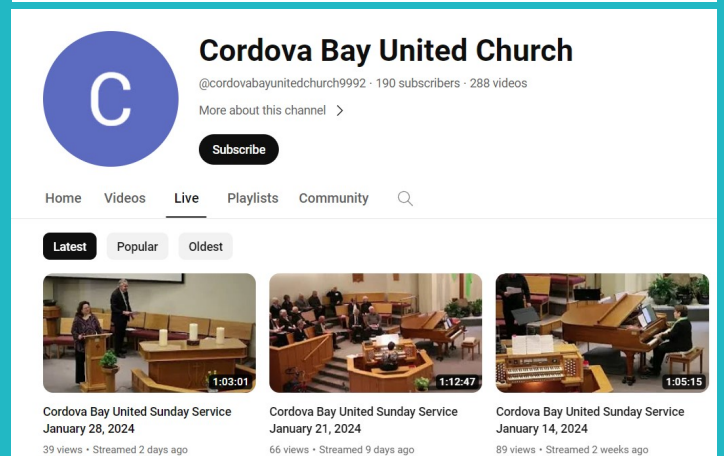
subscribers to the CBUC YouTube channel – double the number from last year

25,000

total views of CBUC YouTube channel since it started in 2020



Livestream Tech Jayda Perry



Christmas Eve Full House

We said goodbye to Pastor Nancy Walker

Cordova Bay United Church said goodbye in 2023 to Pastor Nancy Walker, longtime Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults.

Nancy was at Cordova Bay for nine years. For the last several years she served as halftime congregational minister and halftime minister for children, youth and young adults.

Children, parents, grandparents and friends gave Nancy a special sendoff at her last Messy Church on June 9. More than 60 people – including 21 children – turned out for fun activities, pizza and an enactment of the sacred story of Jonah and the whale.

The Messy Church family then honoured Nancy with two cakes, a video tribute, a photo book of Messy Church memories, and crafts the children had made, as well as a gift certificate. The celebration closed with a group blessing for Nancy.

It was a fitting tribute for Nancy, who started Messy Church at Cordova Bay United.

Nancy was then feted by the congregation following the Sunday service on June 11.

A Mardi Gras theme ran throughout the celebration, beginning with a circle dance by the congregation and led by the choir to the music of When the Saints Go Marching In.

Nancy was invited to sit in a chair decorated in beads and masks in the colours of Mardi Gras. Children then placed a string of beads around Nancy's neck for each of the nine years she was at Cordova Bay United.

A photo slide show on the large screen highlighted Nancy's time at CBUC. Music director Sharon Prindle-Collins and Casey Van Wensem accompanied the slide show. Amy and Casey Van Wensem then gave a musical tribute to Nancy.

Nancy was then presented with gifts. The celebration ended in the church hall with refreshments, sandwiches and cake.

Nancy is currently serving as a congregational minister for a pastoral charge in northwestern B.C.







March Messy Church



September Messy Church

Children and Youth

- 24** Take Out Church boxes delivered
- 4** Messy Church Events
- 9** Spirit Kids Leaders
- 51** Spirit Kids sessions
- 1** Messy Beach Day
- 1** Intergenerational Christmas Eve Pageant
- 3** Outdoor Spirit Kids Sessions
- 10** months was the age of the youngest child at Messy Church in 2023



Faith Formation

10 people took part in the Signs and Wonders book study in the spring

Choir's Christmas Cantata—Seekers of the Light

Caring for Others

- 135** emails a week sent to members by Ministry personnel
- 12** phone calls per month to members by Ministry personnel
- 15** in persons visits per month to members by Ministry personnel
- 4** prayer shawls were distributed to provide comfort to those going through a difficult time.
- 7** Memorial teas organized by the Ethel Wilson Women's Group
- 2** people given healing energy support by the Caring Committee
- 50** stuffed animals donated to the Compassionate Resource Warehouse for children in need around the world
- 2** bicycles and 1 scooter donated by the church to a needy Ukrainian refugee family here in Victoria



Helping Those in Need

\$4,150 to Our Place, including:

\$1,000 for the hot meals program

79 Christmas gifts for people in need valued at more than \$3,150 as part of the Angel Gift Program

\$1,000 for Mustard Seed Food Bank

\$500 for the For The Love of Africa

12 large boxes and bags filled with food for the Saanich Peninsula Lions Club Food Bank as part of our response to World Food Sunday

6 church members took part in the Coldest Night of the Year walk to raise funds for Our Place



\$11,198 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

We officially welcomed our new minister

More than 80 people turned out on Sept. 17 at Cordova Bay United Church for a special service to celebrate the new ministry and covenanting of Pastor Beth Parsons.

Pastor Beth is Cordova Bay United's fulltime Minister of Worship and Congregational Life.

The service was a family affair thanks to the participation of Pastor Beth's sons Steven and Jay, as well as husband Glenn. Steven read the Opening Prayer. Jay sang The Beatles' Let It Be, which was woven into Pastor Beth's Minister's prayer while Glenn played piano.

The service opened with church council co-chairs Laurie Mueller and Jiemei Li welcoming everyone. Joanne Thomas was the scripture reader and Rev. Mark Collins gave the reflection. Sharon Prindle-Collins and the choir performed an anthem and led the congregation in singing.

Other covenanting participants included Carol Martin on behalf of the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church, Willa Burke, Ron Childs, Ruth Schulz and Linda Snelling.

Following the service, Laurie Mueller presented Pastor Beth with flowers and a prayer shawl. Of course, food is always part of our Cordova Bay United celebrations, so afterwards we moved into the church hall for cake and coffee provided by the Ethel Wilson Women's Group.





Reaching out to the Community

7 Cordova Cafes welcomed church members and people from the community with coffee, tea and baked goodies

50+ people attended the December Cordova Café Christmas Bake Sale, including many from the community

3 stories in The Cordovan newsletter informing the community about the Sing We Now of Christmas concert, Cordova Café bake sale and church activities

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

\$600 invested in two new banners promoting the Cordova Café

\$126 for advertising on Facebook to promote Holy Week and Easter Sunday services.

3,650 people reached by the Holy Week and Easter Facebook ads. The ads invited people to “join us” in-person or via livestream

71 people reached by our Easter service on Facebook

3 church events featured in the Times Colonist online events calendar and 1 published as a story and in the print calendar as part of the Times Colonist Thursday Go section



Cordova Café 2nd Saturday of the Month



Carrot Seed Preschool

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

22 children enrolled in the morning program

16 children enrolled in the afternoon program

1 Head of School

4 preschool teachers

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



Carrot Seed Preschool

Comings and Goings

- In June, the congregation and the Messy Church families said goodbye to our Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults, **Pastor Nancy Walker**. Nancy served CBUC for nine years and is now serving a congregation on the Central Coast of BC.
- The congregation formally welcomed **Pastor Beth Parsons** as the new Minister of Worship and Congregation Life at a Sept. 17 covenanting service.
- **Sue Christensen** retired as secretary for the church council. Sue served as council secretary for six years — which must be a record. Council gave Sue heartfelt thanks for all her hard work.
- **Glenn Parsons** assumed the duties of leader of the church band, which is now called the Praise Band.
- **Atholl Malcolm** resigned as chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee and **Rick McMahon** and **Sam Boehner** resigned as members.
- **Bill Walker** assumed the duties of chair of the M&P Committee and **Arlene Box** joined the committee as a member.
- **Valerie Armstrong** and **Jean Hazemi** moved away and stepped down as members of the Stewardship Committee.
- **Rev. Win Stokes** and **Marcia Goodwin** have joined the Caring Committee.
- **John Brenner** is the newest member of the Stewardship Committee.
- After many years of service, **Bob Krueckl** resigned as a member of the Board of Trustees.
- **Margaret Bates** retired as memorial tea coordinator for the Ethel Wilson Women's Group. **Christine Smith** has taken on those duties.
- **Joan Young** stepped down as chair of the Children, Youth and Young Adults Committee.
- **Margaret Chambers** stepped down from her duties of arranging for someone to give the devotional at the Ethel Wilson Women's Group meetings. **Arnette Anderson** has taken on that responsibility.
- **James Lee**, **Dennis Burke** and **Ed Hickcox** stepped aside as co-chairs of the Men's Breakfast Group.
- **Andy Robertson** joined incumbent **John MacLeod** as co-chair of the Men's Breakfast Group.
- **Guy Lokhorst** retired as treasurer for the Men's Breakfast Group and was succeeded by **Casey Vandenbrink**.
- **Grace and Russell Lindsay** stepped down as coordinators of the door greeters for Sunday services and were replaced by **Bill Samis and Karen Strawn Samis**.
- **Barb Shobbrook** stepped aside as coordinator of the annual Christmas poinsettia fundraiser. **Arlene Vickery** took over those duties.
- After years of service, **Dennis Burke** stepped down from the Property Committee.

Our financial year

Cordova Bay United Church members once again demonstrated their remarkable financial commitment to the work of this church during 2023.

In November, faced with a deficit of \$40,000 – and growing – church members responded to the Stewardship Committee's 'Pathway to Christmas' giving campaign by donating nearly \$35,000 in under six weeks.

The result was that the church ended the year with a deficit of just over \$14,000.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the giving campaign and to those who gave faithfully throughout the year. Your support is vital to the mission and ministry of the church.

In 2023, you gave a total of \$291,406 in donations – up \$4,341 from the year before.

Carrot Seed contributed \$33,400 – about nine per cent of the church's total income.

Last year marked the end of the Country Fair and the Fall Rummage Sale. In their place we had several smaller fundraisers like the Sing We Now of Christmas benefit concert and the Cordova Café October mini-sale. Altogether our fundraisers contributed just over \$10,200 – about half of what was budgeted for.

We raised \$11,198 for the Mission and Service Fund – down \$4,109 from the year before, or more than 26 per cent.

Our total income for the year – including donations, use of the building, grants and fundraisers – was \$367,291. That was about \$5,800 less than what we budgeted for.

On the expenses side, we had total expenses of \$381,354 in 2023. That was just over \$8,200 more than what we had budgeted.

Those expenses included some unbudgeted, one-time expenses that we will not incur in 2024.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Total Givings	\$ 280,209.00
Carrot Seed	\$ 33,400.00
Use of Building	\$ 27,743.00
Fundraisers	\$ 10,204.00
Grants	\$ 5,076.00
Other	\$ 2,461.00
M&S	\$ 11,198.00

Total Income **\$ 367,291.00**

EXPENSES

Ministerial & Clerical	\$ 241,434.00
Committees	\$ 6,052.00
Local Outreach	\$ 3,500.00
Building Operations	\$ 88,902.00
Administration	\$ 30,268.00
M&S	\$ 11,198.00

Total Expenses **\$ 381,354.00**

Net Deficit **\$ 14,063.00**

Financial Facts

\$367,291 income

\$381,354 expenses

\$14,063 deficit for the year

\$4 million assessed value of the church – up 9% from 2022

\$113,319 value of the church Legacy Fund as of Dec. 31, 2023 – an increase of \$6,088 from 2022

\$34,900 raised in the Pathway to Christmas giving campaign

53 households took part in the Pathway to Christmas giving campaign



Building Maintenance

\$12,198 in maintenance and repairs, including:

- April spring cleanup
- All drains scoped in the spring, confirming all were in serviceable order
- Repair to in-ground irrigation system
- Repair to roof over narthex where a flaw was found in roof drainage which was causing a leak in the roof. The drainage system modified, and bitumen applied to roof
- Gardens and shrubs thinned and maintained
- Security systems as well as sound systems overhauled and modified as required
- November fall cleanup
- Repaired drain tile of perimeter drains
- Recycling of all materials, building and domestic
- Monthly testing of all safety equipment as required by law

Where the money came from

\$280,209	total givings – up \$8,451 from the year before
\$146,330	givings through PAR (pre-authorized remittance) – \$7,404 less than 2022
\$112,977	givings through general donations such as envelopes – \$6,488 more than 2022 (this includes the \$34,900 Pathway to Christmas giving program)
\$33,400	from Carrot Seed Preschool
\$10,204	from fundraisers (about 3% of total income)
3	new fundraisers in 2023
132	identifiable donors in 2023
52	donated by PAR (pre-authorized remittance)
30	donated by envelope
38	donated by loose cheque
4	donated online through Canada Helps



Where the money went

\$11,198	to the Mission and Service Fund – down \$4,109 (27%) from 2022
\$241,434	for ministry, clerical and support staff (salaries, benefits)
\$38,073	for custodial
\$12,918	for maintenance and repairs - \$7,340 less than in 2022
\$16,364	for hydro

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](#).

Cordova Bay United Church

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

We started to fundraise differently in 2023

This year marked the first year (other than during Covid) that we did not host either a spring Country Fair or a fall Rummage Sale. Following the 2022 Country Fair, we decided to retire those two events and replace them with smaller fundraisers that wouldn't require so much work from the congregation.

However, those fundraisers accounted for \$20,000 of our annual budget – six per cent of our total income.

To help fill that gap, the Caring Committee held a mini-sale of books, jewelry, purses, scarves in conjunction with its October Cordova Café that raised \$2,662.

A second sale – this time of Christmas baking – during the December Cordova Café raised \$1,145. Together, the two sales raised more than \$3,800.

Arlene Vickery spearheaded the sale of poinsettias that raised another \$600.

And Pastor Beth Parsons, Glenn Parsons, Stephen Godfrey and Bruce MacKenzie presented a benefit concert called Sing We Now of Christmas that – together with sale of CDs -- raised \$2,620.

The soup and bun fundraiser held at the AGM in February raised another \$500.

In total, we raised just over \$10,200 in 2023. But that was still far short of what we had planned for in our 2023 budget. As well, we had some unplanned expenses as well as reductions in giving that left the church with a large deficit in the fall.

In response, the Stewardship Committee launched a giving program called 'Pathway to Christmas'. The goal was to raise \$40,000 by the end of the year.

We've always said that if asked, members of Cordova Bay United Church are willing to give – and boy, did you give. The Pathways to Christmas program raised \$34,900 by the end of 2023, making it one of the most successful giving programs in the church's history.



Making an Impact in the Community

\$3,985

donated by Ethel Wilson Women's Group to local organizations:

- **\$985** in grocery gift cards to the Cridge Family Centre's food cupboard
- **\$600** to Women In Need
- **\$600** to Bridges for Women
- **\$600** to 1 Up Single Parent Resource Centre
- **\$600** to Victoria Sexual Assault Centre
- **\$600** to Victoria Women's Shelter

\$500

donated by the church for a bursary for an indigenous student at the University of Victoria

\$250

donated by the church to CFX Radio's Santa's Anonymous Fund

\$250

donated by the church to the Times Colonist Christmas Fund



**Joan Young and Willa Burke
deliver grocery gift cards to the
Cridge Family Centre**



**Food Bank receives
Cordova Bay United's donations**



In Memoriam

Gary Reed
Shirley Sinclair
Karen Hughes
Rev. John Romeril
Dorothy Nelson
Pat Gerry
Lorine Young
Pat Webber
Tom Pringle
Edwina Sprecher
Judith Lokhorst
Isabel Holmes
David Else
Peter Van Es
Lynn Malcolm

May their memory be a blessing.

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](#)

[Child, Youth and Young Adult Ministry](#)

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[Donations](#)

[Ethel Wilson Women's Group](#)

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