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First Baptist Church, Halifax.

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1894.

FINANCE.

W. W. KENNEY, <i>Chairman</i> ,	W. F. PARKER,
T. G. DUNLAP,	B. H. EATON,
C. S. BARSS,	THE TREASURER.
A. L. WOOD,	

COLLECTORS OF SABBATH OFFERINGS.

JAMES HALLIDAY,—Alternate	JOHN BURGOYNE,
JOHN TOALE,	" W. W. KENNEY,
C. E. PUTTNER,	" DR. A. J. MADER,
E. S. HUBLEY,	" RICHMOND R. KENNEDY,
ELIJAH RICHARDSON,	" JAMES WOOD.

PEW COMMITTEE.

JAMES HALLIDAY,	HAROLD S. FREEMAN.
WILLIAM HOLLOWAY,	

USHERS.

H. S. FREEMAN,	JAMES WOOD,
JAMES HALLIDAY,	STEWART HUBLEY,
ELIJAH RICHARDSON,	CLIFFORD SEAMAN.

MUSIC COMMITTEE.

R. M. KING, <i>Chairman</i> ,	C. S. BARSS,
H. L. BECKWITH,	ALLISON PAYZANT.

AUDITORS.

R. M. KING,	R. N. BECKWITH.
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

R. N. BECKWITH,	A. L. WOOD,
	B. H. EATON.

LADIES' VISITING COMMITTEE.

MRS. SAUNDERS,	MRS. BURGOYNE,	MRS. E. D. KING,
" CHUTE,	" WOOD,	" H. W. BLACKADAR,
" BECKWITH,	" MOODY,	" PAYZANT.
" EATON,	" W. F. PARKER.	

SUNDAY-SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

JOHN BURGOYNE,	R. M. KING,
W. F. PARKER,	R. N. BECKWITH.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Your Finance Committee beg to present the following report:

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1893.

Paid balance due Treasurer, January 1st, 1893.	\$ 46 39
" Pastor's Salary	1500 00
" Pulpit Supplies	42 50
" Interest on Mortgage.....	550 00
" Fuel for 1892-93.....	264 44
" Gas	128 00
" Music Conductor	300 00
" Music Books	9 08
" Sewer Construction	45 87
" Organ blower.....	45 85
" Sexton.....	185 00
" Repairs, Printing Books, etc.....	341 20
" Sundries	16 11
" Furnace.....	131 06
" Insurance	150 00
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	\$3755 50

It will be noted that while we began the year with a deficit of \$46.39, debts previously incurred amounting to \$325 00 were settled, and two items in addition, together amounting to nearly as much more, viz: the cost of the Furnace and the Insurance Premiums, were also paid. The indebtedness of the Church on current expense account is as follows:

Due the Treasurer.....	\$ 44 84
Loan	310 00
Bills due.....	31 55
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	\$386 39

The Receipts for the year 1893, on account of current expenses have been as follows:

Weekly offerings	\$3309 84
Special offerings	90 82
Loan	310 00
Balance due Treasurer.	44 84
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	\$3755 50

In accordance with a resolution of the Church your Committee circulated cards, inviting pledges and increased contributions, in January, and a second set in December, and they received in several instances a generous response. In December a special appeal was made by the members of the Committee individually, on behalf of the Building Fund, but with what effect they are unable to state.

BUILDING FUND.

Paid on Mortgage.....	\$1000 00
Balance.....	3 50
	<hr/>
	\$1003 50
By balance on hand, January 1, 1893.....	94 01
" Quarterly Contributions and Special Collections..	909 49
	<hr/>
	\$1003 50
January 1, 1894, Balance on hand	3 50

Receipts
 4649.2
 B2
 1893

CONVENTION FUND.

To Cash remitted Rev. Mr. Cohoon.....	\$376 53
Balance.....	4 00
	<u>\$380 53</u>
By Cash, Monthly Collections.....	\$378 53
" " Miss Delaney's "Thank Offering".....	2 00
	<u>\$380 53</u>
January 1, 1894, By balance on hand.....	4 00

POOR'S FUND.

To Paid needy poor.....	\$163 75
Balance on hand.....	53 14
	<u>\$216 89</u>
By Balance on hand, January 1, 1893.....	86 32
" Collections and Special Offerings.....	130 57
	<u>216 89</u>
Balance on hand.....	53 14

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

B. Y. P. U.....	\$ 5 00
Sunday School, Miss McNeil.....	3 00
West-End Church.....	41 28
Collections at Association.....	10 20
Church at Africville.....	5 90
Infants' Home.....	18 40
Dispensary.....	13 38
Ministers' Annuity Fund.....	36 80
	<u>\$133 96</u>

To Paid Sundry Accounts.....	131 08
Balance on hand.....	2 88
	<u>\$133 96</u>
January 1st, 1894, Balance on hand.....	2 88

General Summary of the Contributions of the Church for all purposes, so far as known, for the year 1893.

General Amount.....	\$3400 66
Building Fund.....	909 49
Convention Fund.....	380 53
Poor's ".....	130 57
West-End Church.....	41 28
Africville ".....	5 90
Infants' Home.....	18 40
Dispensary.....	13 38
Ministers' Annuity Fund.....	36 80
	<u>\$4937 01</u>

To this total should be added the contributions of the W. M. A. Society, and those of the Sunday School.

The regular weekly offerings for 1893 amounted to \$3309.84, being an increase over those of 1892 of \$371.10.

The weekly envelopes for 1892 averaged \$50.31. Plates \$6.20.

" " " " 1893 " 54.25 " 8.20

The total weekly average for 1892 was \$56.51.

" " " " 1893 " 62.45

The weekly average of 1892, however, fell below that of either of the three preceding years. The figures are as follows:

For 1889, weekly average.....	\$58 34
" 1890 " " 	59 98
" 1891 " " 	58 46
" 1892 " " 	56 51
" 1893 " " 	62 45

ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Pastor's Salary	\$15 0 00
Music	340 00
Sexton	180 00
Pulpit Supplies	60 00
Fuel	125 00
Gas	130 00
Interest	500 00
Water Rates	100 00
Loan, balance and bills due	385 00
Miscellaneous	300 00
	\$3620 00

The above amount will require contributions averaging \$70.00 weekly.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Finance Committee,

H. H. READ, *Chairman.*

DEACONS' REPORT.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

At the time of our last Roll-call, our Membership numbered 236. It is now 249, giving an increase of 13. The items bringing us to this result are as follows:

Received during the year by Letter.....	18
" " " " Baptism...	14
" " " " Experience	1
	—
Total.....	33
Dismissed	11
Died—Louisa Barrett, David Freeman Covey, Mrs. E. S. Habley, Miss Ann McVean, Adolphus Payson, Mrs. Catharine Backadar	6
Fellowship withdrawn from.....	3
	—
	20
	—
Net increase.....	13

Our Membership, May 31, 1889, was 305; in '90, 286; in '91, 278; in '92, 236; and May 31, '93, 243, and at the present date 249 as above stated. These figures show a considerable decrease in numerical force in the last five years. This decrease is largely due to the fact that we have dismissed more than we have received. From May 31st, 1888, to May 31st, 1893, forty-nine were received by letter and 83 dismissed, showing a net decrease by this means of 34 in five years. We are a receiving and distributing Church, with the balance against us.

There are members of sister churches now attending our services to the number of about 26. We need their best co-operation, and they need our sympathy and Christian fellowship. In the most kind and urgent manner we would press upon these brethren and sisters the duty and benefit to themselves and us of obtaining their letters and uniting with this body.

In this same connection it is but right to recognize and act upon the fact that this rule works both ways. We have thirty non-resident members and with only a few exceptions they are in a position to unite with sister Baptist Churches where they now reside. In all such cases it must be

apparent that it is their clear duty, as well as their great privilege to transfer their membership and identify themselves with the churches where they are located. The deacons have constantly had both sides of the case in mind and done what they could to effect transfers to us where it could be done, and from us in case of non-residents.

We would urge upon parents especially to see that their children who go abroad to reside, take letters of dismission to join where they locate, so that they may have a church home and be better able to work for the Master.

The number of Baptisms during the year just closing is larger than in any year since 1889. The fact that 14 have united with us by baptism in one year now ending, calls for devout gratitude and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father.

Our list of departed brethren and sisters is a list of beloved ones who were ripe for the glory into which we believe they have entered. Their memories will be long cherished by us.

It may stimulate us to greater exertions on behalf of our young men to state that 181 of our members belong to the sisterhood and only 68 are male members. Let us pray and labor for the conversion of the boys growing up in our midst.

Permit us in this connection to state some facts in relation to our Sunday School, upon which department the welfare and growth of the Church will always largely depend. In 1889 the enrollment was 212 members, with an average attendance of 145; in 1890, 175 with an average of 118; in 1891, 165 with an average of 113; in 1892, 175 with an average of 115, and in 1893, 165 with an average of 120. These facts seem to point to the desirability of making more determined effort to develop and strengthen and build up the Sabbath School. Our future is largely bound up in the Sabbath School.

We wish here to ask your most earnest attention to a matter which has weighed heavily upon Pastor and Deacons, as well as many other members, namely—attendance at Prayer and Conference meetings. With a membership of 219 resident in the City and Dartmouth, the attendance at these meetings ought to be very much larger than it has been. Brethren and sisters, how can you afford to remain away from these meetings? "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." We believe the growth of Christian life is mainly dependent upon these means of grace. Again therefore, with all the emphasis we can use, let us exhort and urge all our members to attend the Prayer and Conference meetings, and to take part therein.

We see in this body a great and mighty force for the up-building of God's cause in the earth if only all the members will bow themselves with all their faculties to God's work, trusting to Him for the help He is ever ready to give. We have a lovable, a beloved and devoted and able Pastor, and we should be thankful to God for sending him to us, and at this time we should remember him in our prayers in the deep suffering he has been called to undergo in the death of his aged father.

We have a membership capable of doing manifold work for the Master, and we have material means among us of meeting all the necessary financial needs of the church, as well as giving aid to our denominational

enterprises. What then do we need? We need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us importune God for this. In private and when we meet together let us beseech God for a revival of religion in all our hearts.

There will be some who, on account of age and illness, cannot be with us this evening. Let us all pray for them, and let us all feel that we are members of one family, bound together in the sacred ties of Christian fellowship.

In closing, let us ask you, brethren and sisters, for your constant prayers on our behalf, that we may rightly discharge the duties committed to us as Deacons of this Church. We would plan and strive to advance our Redeemer's cause, but we feel our need of more wisdom and zeal and devotion. Remember us therefore at a throne of grace.

We devoutly pray God that the year now before us may be one of great blessing to us, and to others through us, and that pastor and people may be knit together in Christian love.

	LEWIS S. PAYZANT,	J. BURGOYNE,
	E. D. KING,	W. F. PARKER,
February 2nd, 1894.	B. H. EATON,	A. L. WOOD.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS FOR 1894.

<i>Superintendent</i>	JOHN BURGOYNE,
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	JOHN TOALE,
<i>Librarians</i>	{ W. L. BARNSTEAD.
	{ WM. YATES,
<i>Organist</i>	MISS BECKWITH,
<i>Precentor</i>	R. M. KING.

TEACHERS OF ADULT CLASSES.

E. D. KING,	W. F. PARKER.
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INTERMEDIATE.

MRS. BECKWITH,	MISS SHIELDS.
" DURLING,	" YATES,
MISS BECKWITH,	W. W. KENNEDY,
" FORREST,	R. M. KING,
" KENNEDY,	E. D. KING,
" NORTON,	F. W. PARKER.
" REID.	

PRIMARY.

MISS HOLLOWAY,	MISS BRUNT.
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SUPERNUMERARY.

MISS SCOTT,	B. H. EATON,
" PUTNER.	A. L. WOOD,

During the past four years the membership of the school has been below two hundred. In 1892, the number stood at 175; it is now 160. This number represents those in actual attendance during December, our present system of recording banner classes requiring more severe pruning of the roll than formerly.

Taking the record of the ten intermediate classes for 1893, we find there has been an increase in the average attendance. The primary class average has about held its own, with indeed a very slight increase. The adult classes have somewhat decreased their average, in comparison with 1892.

Twenty-nine new scholars have been added to the roll—four less than in 1892. Eighty-five visitors are recorded.

The average total attendance has been 120—an increase of five. The banner classes for 1893, are Mrs. Beckwith's class, and the Band School class taught by Miss Norton, whose work has been greatly blessed of late.

The contributions—\$97.00—show a decrease of 9c per week. The money given by the scholars has been paid out for missions, for papers, and general expenses of the school. The primary class supports "Jacob," one of the little boys under the care of our missionaries in India. The Young People's Union have contributed \$18.90, for the purchase of hymn-books for the use of the school—a contribution which was cheerfully made and gratefully received. It has been suggested that a change be made by which the offerings of the school shall be paid according to the Convention scheme, and so to educate our youth to give to all branches of our Church work.

We still have to regret the small number of adults among our membership—one of the essentials to a really good Sunday-school, but which can only be obtained by the co-operation of the church at large. We would make our annual appeal to this end; and call attention to the fact that we are this year beginning over again a seven years' course of study of the whole Bible. What better time could be chosen for a good start in this direction. *Who will enroll?*

The years pass on, and our Library remains un replenished, for the want of say \$200. This year, 1894, the teachers have decided to do without papers, except for the primary class, and appropriate the money so saved to the purchase of books for the Library. Contributions towards this object would be very thankfully received.

Teachers' meetings have been held monthly, with an attendance fairly encouraging.

The Friendly Offering Committee reported twelve basketfuls of fruit, confectionery, cake, etc., contributed on Christmas Day. This Christmas offering to the poor and the sick of our acquaintance (not confined to the Church and congregation) bids fair to become—or perhaps has already become—a permanent institution. The scholars participate in it with great heartiness.

The picnic held at Prince's Lodge in July, was much enjoyed by those who attended. We could have wished that more had shared the enjoyment. Among the things learned by this event was the importance of securing the necessary funds before the picnic is held.

One step in advance has been made—or perhaps we should say two steps—in the re-organization of the Mission Band, under the

superintendence of Miss Beckwith, and the formation of a Band of Hope, under the care of Miss Saunders. While not actually a part of the School, still both these branches are under its auspices, and draw their membership from its ranks, while both have the hearty support of the teachers.

It is our pleasant duty to return thanks to the congregation for the generous donation of chairs for the primary class. But suitable furniture is not everything; and empty chairs in the primary class would be an alarming condition of things. While, as we have said, we do desire to see a good adult class, we even more strongly urge the attention of our people to the small number at present in the primary class. There are surely more than thirty little ones between the ages of say four and nine, who should be in this class. The class has an excellent teacher, in the person of Miss Holloway, whose singular tact in dealing with the little folk in our public schools is so well known, and whose gift is consecrated to the work of our primary class. Let us hope that the attendance at this class may forthwith be largely and permanently increased. Miss Holloway is assisted in this department by Miss Florence Brunt. In this connection we cannot refrain from mentioning the name of Miss Robinson, who so long and successfully taught the primary class; but whose ill-health has compelled her for a season to relinquish some of her church work. We wish to place on record the high appreciation in which she is held, and to express the hope that she may ere long be again counted among the active workers in the vineyard.

We are suffering also from the temporary loss of Bro. Beckwith's services on the regular teaching staff. We are looking forward to his early resumption of the work for so many years done among us. Other teachers who have gone from us during the year are Miss MacLatchy, Miss Porter and Mr. Woodworth. The prayers of the school go with them.

We desire to acknowledge also the continued good service of our Secretary and Librarians, as also those of the organist and precentor, and to express the appreciation of the warm interest manifested by our pastor, who is always in sympathy with the work, and ready with such practical suggestions as can only come from experience, coupled with a desire for the school's best interests.

We are not without hope, nor do we lack encouragement. The brightest part of our report we have left till last. The year just closed has witnessed the addition to the roll of Church membership by baptism of eleven of our scholars. This surely is cause for gratitude, and must encourage the Church to work and pray for the efficiency and faithfulness of the teachers during the year before us.

"Does your lighthouse ever shake?" said a visitor to the keeper. "Well," he replied, "I have sometimes thought I felt it tremble during a violent storm; but of one thing I am sure—that the rock on which it is built never shakes." Christ is the rock. The work is His. "May we be faithful," is our prayer. May God grant us the right use of faith and works, in this branch of Christian duty.